

THE INDEPENDENT

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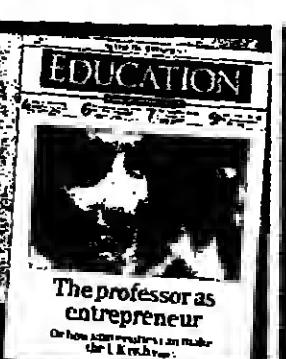


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Rescuers standing on destroyed ski chalets after the avalanche on Tuesday near Chamonix, in the French Alps

Search goes on for Alps victims

BY JOHN LICHFIELD in Argentiere, French Alps

RESCUE TEAMS were continuing to search the impacted snow and rubble which used to be 18 Alpine chalets last night, despite fading hopes of finding more survivors of the avalanche which killed 10 people near Argentiere on Tuesday.

Two more people were known to be missing, believed buried under the wreckage and snow, which had been turned hard as concrete by severe frost.

The 10 known to have died, all French, included a couple and their three children aged 11 to 13, and an elderly couple and their four-year-old granddaughter.

Twenty people were rescued, including a 12-year-old boy found close to death after spending hours buried in the wreckage. The child, suffering from hypothermia but otherwise uninjured, was said to be recovering well in hospital in Chamonix.

The avalanche - wider than the length of a football field and as tall as a house - crashed into a high Alpine valley amid the ski resorts of the Mont Blanc massif after three days of intense snow storms. Part of the wall of snow rebounded uphill to engulf a group of chalets on the opposite side of a stream.

Local people were in a state of shock, and some fear yesterday. The stricken chalets were in a "white zone", considered to be almost free from the threat of avalanches. There had been no significant slide of snow at the site for 91 years.

The Foreign Office said last night that the body of a 28-year-old British man had been found in Courchevel, about 40 miles south of Chamonix, after an avalanche. The man, who was not being named, had been working at the resort and had been skiing off piste when the avalanche struck.

Philippe Desmazes

Skills test for all doctors

EVERY DOCTOR in Britain is to be required to undergo regular checks of their competence as a condition of being allowed to continue in practice, leaders of the medical profession decided yesterday.

In a historic vote, the General Medical Council, the profession's disciplinary body, decided that doctors must agree to continuous monitoring of their skills to preserve public confidence and to see off government threats to intervene in their regulation.

The move marks a milestone in the regulation of doctors. Pressure for change has been growing on the GMC and

BY JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

on the royal medical colleges, which have been criticised as cartels protecting the interests of their members, rather than those of the public, and which sharply increased last year following the Bristol heart babies case in which three doctors were found guilty of serious professional conduct after 29 out of 53 babies died.

Yesterday, two weeks before the public inquiry into the tragedy is due to begin hearings, parents of the Bristol babies suffered further distress when it was revealed that they

had buried their offspring without their hearts.

The hearts of an estimated 170 babies who died were removed and stored, without their parents' permission, over a 16-year period up to 1995.

The Bristol Royal Infirmary said yesterday it was routine practice to retain organs for "examination and education purposes", and there was no legal requirement on it to obtain consent although it was now standard practice to do so.

Under the measures agreed by the GMC yesterday, every hospital and GP practice will be required to draw up a "profile" of the performance of each

doctor which will be continuously updated. This will be backed by regular independent assessment, possibly every five years, with the ultimate sanction that doctors who fail to measure up, or who refuse to co-operate, will be struck off.

Until now, doctors who have completed their training have been free to practise without any further checks on their performance. The new measures mean that for the first time they will have to regularly demonstrate their fitness to practise.

The Government had responded to the growing public disquiet by signalling its in-



water down the proposals was heavily defeated.

Dr Edwin Boorman, former chairman of the junior doctors committee of the British Medical Association said the new measures would be unwieldy, cumbersome and difficult to implement and could open the GMC to a legal challenge by struck-off doctors.

However, Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC who has personally driven through the changes, said existing measures were inadequate.

He added that "bloody-minded doctors" who refused to co-operate with the assessment could be struck off the register

automatically in the same way as those who failed to pay their annual registration fee.

A steering committee of the GMC will now consider how the measures will work in practice and will report back to the full council in May, with a further report in November.

The decision was welcomed yesterday by the medical colleges, the BMA and the Association of Community Health Councils representing patients. But the Bristol Heart Patients Action group said the move still left the checks in the hands of doctors and an independent body was required.

Parents' distress, page 7

British arms cargo seized by Customs

CUSTOMS OFFICERS in Belgium have seized a huge cargo of military equipment being shipped by a British company to war-torn Eritrea.

Tonnes of army equipment and 40 ex-German army lorries have been impounded at Antwerp docks. A Customs spokesman said that the equipment included replacement engines for former Soviet tanks, infra-red sights, periscopes and thermal imaging equipment. "This is an exceptional catch. We don't seize 91 container loads of military equipment every day," he said.

Fierce fighting broke out in Eritrea on Saturday when Ethiopia invaded the Badme area after a recurring border dispute. Fighting continued yesterday when Russian-made Ethiopian aircraft attacked villages in Western Eritrea.

The military equipment had been bought in Germany, brought together in Holland and moved by rail to Antwerp for loading on to a ship. Customs officials became suspicious of the cargo, which was

BY PAUL LASHMAR

listed as building equipment and water pumps. A strict new Belgian law prevents military equipment being exported without an arms export licence.

The British company organising the shipment is the south London-based JMT Charlesworth Ltd, trading as Global Services. John Charlesworth, the owner, speaking from Antwerp yesterday denied that it was military equipment. "It was an order for a Eritrean road construction company called Ghedem," he said.

Mr Charlesworth said that he had struck the deal after being given a Department of Trade and Industry grant to explore export opportunities in Eritrea. Mr Charlesworth said that he had not known there were infra-red sights, periscopes or thermal imaging included in the shipment. The 80 engines are of the type used for Russian-made T-54 and T-65 tanks, although he said they

were for use in Russian-made bulldozers. He has mounted a legal challenge against the Belgian government over the seizure but the authorities brought in a military intelligence official who confirmed that the shipment was military equipment. An independent expert is due to report shortly.

As a result of the shipment being held up in Antwerp since October, the Eritrean company has pulled out of the deal, Mr Charlesworth said. He denied he dealt in military equipment.

There is no arms embargo in Britain on supplying weapons to Eritrea or Ethiopia, Oxfam said yesterday. "The key issue is arms brokering, which was really at the centre of the Sandline affair. It is not illegal if the arms do not touch UK soil."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Affairs Foreign Affairs and Defence spokesman, said that "the sooner the law relating to arms brokers is tightened up, the better".

From Ethiopian football field to battlefield, page 13

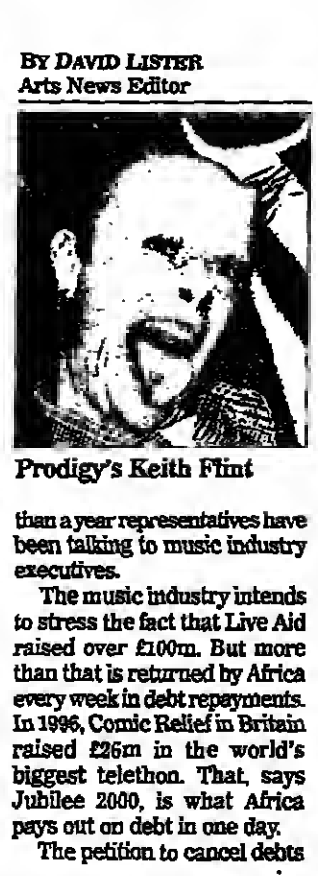
Write off third world debt, stars tell Blair

ROCK STARS, international celebrities and record companies are launching a campaign to pressure world leaders, including Tony Blair, into writing off debt owed by the world's poorest countries.

In what will be the biggest and most political music industry campaign since Live Aid in 1985, the rock and pop world will call on the United Nations to cancel "unpayable Third World debt" as a humanitarian gesture for the new millennium.

The campaign will be launched at the Brit Awards in London next week. Campaign logos and the slogan "Drop the Debt" will appear on CD covers over the next year. Artists who have signed the petition include David Bowie, Luciano Pavarotti, Prodigy, Annie Lennox, Catatonia, Oasis, Robbie Williams, Cornershop and Placebo. Keith Flint of Prodigy is having the words "Drop the Debt" tattooed on his back.

A global campaign to cancel unpayable debt has been backed for some time by the pressure group Jubilee 2000. For more



Prodigy's Keith Flint

that cannot be afforded for some countries - and all debts for the very poorest - will go to the next summit of world leaders. More than three million people worldwide have signed it. But the involvement of rock stars and Pavarotti and the planned campaign by the record companies has not been made public.

Marc Marot, managing director of Island Records UK, who has been involved in gathering support, said last night: "We can help to popularise what is rather an esoteric movement, so that this campaign hits the heartland of the country. That's why it's necessary to bring in those with influence in popular culture."

Jubilee 2000 says that approximately £11bn may need to be cancelled. It would cost each taxpayer £2 per year to cancel the debts owed directly to Britain from the world's poorest countries. The UN has estimated that if funds were diverted back into health and education from debt repayment, the lives of seven million children could be saved before 2000.

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TODAY'S TELEVISION BACK PAGE

7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

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A FABLE BY ROBERTO BENIGNI

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

(LA VITA È BELLA)

STARTS TOMORROW IN THE WEST END



Jean Marie Pavy (centre, with hat) and his family yesterday. They were rescued after the avalanche had destroyed their chalet

Alpine paradise was smothered at 60mph

MICHEL, a softly spoken man in his thirties, stood, weeping, between the enormous banks of snow in the village street. "No one dreamed anything like this could happen," he said.

"These houses were in the safest possible zone for avalanches. But what does anyone of us really know? When the mountain decides, the mountain decides. There is nothing you can do. I have lost people that I loved a great deal. Here, we have all lost people that we loved a great deal. The whole village is crying."

He turned away, unable to say any more.

By JOHN LICHFIELD in Argentiere

avalanche crashed into the valley bottom at an estimated 60mph. It crossed a stream and one part swept on for 30 to 40 yards uphill to consume a group of chalets on the opposite slope.

Hence the sense of shock and fear among local people. "I have lived here all my life and I have never heard of an avalanche so powerful, so low down to the mountains, and I have never heard of an avalanche capable of going uphill," said one gendarme,

resting in the village of Argentiere, two kilometres away after hours of digging in the packed snow and debris.

Other buildings, some local homes and some holiday chalets, were carried 400 metres down the valley by the remainder of the avalanche. "It's horrible. There is nothing left," said Jean-Louis Verdier, the assistant mayor of Chamonix, 10 miles from the disaster scene. "Everything was wiped away. Where the chalets should be, there is a big hole."

Jean-Marie Pavy, 49, who was staying in a house just outside the path of the avalanche

said: "The chalet next to ours disappeared. It was pushed across the road. There were blocks of cement everywhere... It was the apocalypse."

The 12-year-old French boy was pulled from several feet of the snow and rubble by rescuers working with sonic equipment and sniffer dogs after being trapped for several hours. He was taken to hospital with extreme hypothermia where his condition appeared to be desperate. But he was said to be recovering strongly yesterday.

This was the only real success of an arduous night for 200 rescue workers. After an initial flurry of rescues, all the victims recovered were dead, including the couple and their children aged 11 to 13. The four-year-old girl found in the wreckage of a chalet near the bodies of her grand-parents seemed to be just alive but was declared dead on arrival in hospital in Chamonix.

When you have that much fresh snow, piling up on other unstable soft snow, anything can happen."

The danger from avalanches has been endlessly studied, plotted and tracked over the years, defences have been erected and buildings banned in the danger zones. The process is so old and so elaborate that each large avalanche has a name, like the mountains themselves. The wall of snow which fell on Montroc was called the "Avalanche des Fecieray". It was regarded as the Alpine equivalent of an extinct volcano: it had not dis-

lodged itself and crashed down the mountain since 1908.

The last serious avalanche incident of any kind in this area, high in the valley of the Arve, on the shoulder of Mont Blanc, near the French-Swiss border, was 21 years ago. An avalanche fell on the village of Tour, next to Montroc, destroying two chalets and killing five people.

Meteorologists have predicted that, partly because of the disruption of weather patterns by global warming, snow falls in the Alps will tend to be greater, and later in the season. This has certainly been the

case this year, with falls of six feet of snow in the Chamonix area since the weekend. If the pattern continues, all the conventional wisdom about safe and dangerous zones for avalanches will have to be torn up.

There have been dozens of other avalanches in the French Alps in the last two days, most occurring safely high in the mountains. Three British holidaymakers - Paul Macey, 28, from Bristol, Karen Turner, 28, also from Bristol, and Maddie Sidanie, 32, from Oxford - were engulfed by a snow slide at Tignes les Brevieres, 50 miles

south of Chamonix. They were not deeply buried and managed to scramble free.

Rescuers also found the body yesterday of a 28-year-old Briton who disappeared in an avalanche while skiing off-piste near Courchevel, south of Chamonix.

Police and prosecutors have issued warnings that tough action will be taken against skiers who ignore warnings of avalanche dangers and leave marked trails.

The avalanche at Montroc had no such obvious cause; and it was all the more terrifying for that reason.



A casualty arriving by helicopter at Chamonix hospital

Villages that were left defenceless

THE CHAMONIX valley is no stranger to death in the winter, but the tragedy at the mountain villages of Le Tour and Montroc shocked even the most hardened residents.

The harshness of the landscape and its close proximity to Geneva has made Chamonix a burial ground for the adventurous. The cemetery is filled with climbers who died young, following their sport. Every year brings fresh tragedies.

Owning a small mountain cabin in the valley, I have be-

come used to seeing helicopters going to the rescue of climbers and skiers.

An avalanche brushed aside a large wood above the small community of Tacconnaz, where I live, a few years ago. Now the French have built an enormous wall as an avalanche defence for the village.

A second defensive wall was built to stop the Tacconnaz glacier avalanching on to the mo-

torway that runs into the mouth of the Mont Blanc tunnel.

But Montroc and Le Tour had no such avalanche defences. Lying at the head of the Chamonix valley, and the pass, which is closed when it becomes impassable, they had learnt to live with the deepest snows each year but even the locals had never seen anything like the quantity of snow which fell in recent weeks.

A week ago I dug a path a metre deep to get into my ski chalet and since then more

than 1.5 metres of snow have fallen on Montroc and Le Tour.

The Savoyard village of Le Tour was the sort of high-mountain hamlet that photographers for the glossy ski brochures drooled over until the avalanche struck.

Le Tour and Mont Roc are the home for some of the serious expatriate British skiers who spend the season in the Chamonix valley, skiing in the rugged resort of Argentiere on the largely off-piste slopes of the Grands Montets.

Young women don't enjoy sex

MORE THAN a quarter of young women in America do not enjoy sex, sometimes because intercourse brings them more pain than pleasure, according to a new study of sexual behaviour published yesterday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Older women by contrast reported fewer problems in bed.

Billed as the most comprehensive investigation into adult sex habits since the famed Kinsey report of 1948, the survey painted an unexpectedly bleak picture of sexual satisfaction. It suggested that two in every five women and about one-third of men in all age groups experi-

ence some form of sexual dysfunction, ranging from lack of desire to attaining an erection and reaching orgasm.

Most striking are the findings for younger women, aged 18 to 29. According to the survey - conducted by researchers from the University of Chicago and based on interviews with 3,400 adults - 27 per cent get no pleasure from having sex and, if anything, consider it an ordeal. The same view was expressed by 17 per cent of women aged 50-59.

The findings appear to ex-

plode the popular notion that young people, or at least young women, enjoy the hottest sex. "For women, age is not the big deal everyone assumes it is," Edward Laumann, one of the study's authors, said yesterday.

In their conclusion, the authors said the results "indicate that sexual problems are widespread in society and are influenced by health-related and psychosocial factors".

The report suggests a reality that is at odds with the images of satisfying sex that saturate books, magazines, film and television. "This problem warrants recognition as a sig-

nificant public health concern," the study asserts.

Mr Laumann added that the various difficulties suffered by men, including performance anxiety and premature ejaculation, explains the extraordinary success of the Viagra potency pill. "I think it gives us a base for explaining why we had this enormous response," he said.

Experts yesterday offered an array of possible explanations for the study's gloomy findings, ranging from the modern pressures of work to emotional and health problems as well as fear about sexual diseases, including Aids.

Avalanches are more likely when:

- Slopes are steeper than 30°
- A lot of new snow falls over a short period
- Winds lead to drifts
- Old snow melts and refreezes, encouraging new snow to slide off

At Montroc, heavy snow fell on Monday and Tuesday, but melting and refreezing of old snow was thought not to be responsible.

1 Tuesday 2.35pm (1.35pm GMT): a tidal wave of snow 150 metres wide and 6 metres high crashes down into the valley at 60 mph and buries much of the village of Montroc

2 The force of the avalanche is so great that it sweeps through Montroc and travels 40 metres uphill to smash into the village of Le Tour. The avalanche carries some of the chalets as far as 400m (a quarter of a mile)

3 Snow storms on Tuesday night prevent rescues by helicopter during the first vital hours. The snow is packed so tight that only mechanical diggers can hack their way through to the chalets

GRAPHIC: KRISTINA FERRIS AND JULIAN SAUL



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Transfusions kill patients, say doctors

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS given routinely to tens of thousands of critically ill patients may be killing them, doctors have found.

Canadian researchers have found that giving extra blood, despite its essential role in maintaining life, can cause more harm than good in those who have been thought in greatest need of it.

The unexpected finding, from a study of more than 800 critically ill patients, will deliver a serious blow to the idea of accident victims being stretched into hospital with a bag of life-giving blood suspended above them.

Doctors had assumed that any means of boosting oxygen supply to the body's tissues in those who were seriously ill would improve their chances of survival. But the Canadian research shows that critically ill patients who received more blood were up to twice as likely to die as those who received less.

In Britain, an estimated 800,000 patients receive blood transfusions each year, most after routine surgery, and demand for blood is rising. Using less blood would also save costs and conserve a scarce resource.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

The aim of a transfusion is to restore levels of haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying constituent of red blood cells. Normal levels of haemoglobin range from 14 to 17 grams per decilitre. In the Canadian study, half of the 838 seriously unwell patients were given enough blood to raise their haemoglobin over 10 grams per decilitre, while the other half were restricted to only 7-9 grams per decilitre, half the normal level. One third of the restricted group received no blood at all. On average the restricted group received three units of blood (one and a half litres) less than the unrestricted group - but more of them survived. Among patients under 55 and the less severely ill, those who received less blood (or no blood at all) were half as likely to die as those who received more. The only exceptions were patients with heart attacks and unstable angina (chest pain).

Dr Paul Hebert and his colleagues from the University of Ottawa say in the *New England Journal of Medicine*: "Our find-

ings indicate that the use of a threshold... as low as 7 grams of haemoglobin per decilitre... was at least as effective as and possibly superior to a liberal transfusion strategy... in critically ill patients."

It is well-known that giving too much blood or other infusions can cause heart attacks or water on the lungs because of the effort required to pump the extra liquid round the body. But the researchers found these factors could not explain the differences they found.

In a commentary on the findings, Wesley Ely and Gordon Bernard of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Nashville, say it is difficult to explain the harm caused by liberal transfusion. One possibility is that a transfusion, like a transplant, delivers a shock to the immune system. "Harmless" viruses in the blood may also be implicated.

They say more trials are needed to determine the best treatment for critically ill patients. "With such knowledge, more physicians will be able to adhere to the dictum 'first do no harm', and we will have a surplus of blood for transfusion rather than a shortage."

Drug 'triggers cancer'

A DRUG used to prevent tissue rejection after transplant operations may be the reason why these patients are more likely to develop potentially fatal cancers, scientists have discovered.

Cyclosporine, a drug that suppresses the immune system and so inhibits the body's natural mechanism for tissue rejection, directly alters cancer cells to make them highly dangerous, the study shows.

The findings have been called "provocative" by experts, some of whom remain unconvinced that cyclosporine can directly instigate a cancer. The sceptics believe immune suppression in

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

general creates the conditions for the creation of cancers.

Cyclosporine is given to most of the 2,500 patients who undergo organ transplants each year in Britain and experts are concerned that the research may frighten people off a drug that has saved many lives.

However, a team of Japanese scientists, led by Minoru Hojo of Teikyo University, and now at Cornell University in New York, found that cyclosporine causes cancer cells in a test tube to become mobile and "invasive".

This would make a cancer able to spread around the body.

In a research paper published in the journal *Nature* they produce evidence to show the effects are also seen in laboratory animals, and that the observed changes can be reversed if cyclosporine is inhibited by a blocking agent - further implicating the drug as a cancer-causing agent.

"Our findings suggest that immunosuppressants like cyclosporine can promote cancer progression by a direct cellular effect that is independent of its effect on the host's immune cells," the researchers conclude.



Shobdon Church in Herefordshire, Britain's only rococo church, impressed some visiting Japanese businessmen so much they have decided to build a replica of it near Tokyo as a wedding chapel. The copy in Japan must be built to withstand earthquakes

Jury see pictures of Death Road

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE JURY in Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial was yesterday shown photographs in Eastern Europe where a South London pensioner is alleged to have murdered 20 Jews more than 50 years ago.

Over a period of several hours, the Old Bailey jury studied aerial and ground photographs of Domachevo, the town in Belarus where Polish-born Anthony Sawoniuk served with the police force during the Nazi occupation of 1941-44. The pictures showed the site of the Jewish ghetto, the sand hills on the outskirts of town where 2,900 Jews were killed in one day and the so-called Road of Death which linked the sand hills to the ghetto.

The evidence came during the third day of the trial of Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, who is charged, under 1991 legislation, with four counts of murder in 1942. Mr Sawoniuk denies the charges.

Yesterday, John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, said it was important that the jury understood the layout of the town and its surrounding area.

In an unprecedented move, the court will next week visit Domachevo.

Each photograph shown yesterday featured a different overview of the town which suffered under the Nazis. Photograph 33 showed the ghetto where the Germans insisted the Jewish population live in cramped conditions, with virtually no food and under persistent harassment from the authorities.

Photograph 35 showed the town's Catholic church. The jury had previously been told it was from here that a witness, Galina Puchkina, saw the Germans lead hundreds of Jews to the sand hills. She remembered hearing the sound of gunfire as the men, women and children were executed.

Mr Nutting alleged that on one occasion, a witness saw Mr Sawoniuk order 15 women to strip naked before shooting them and pushing them into a pre-dug grave.

The trial continues.

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Jury see pictures of Death Road

AN INDEPENDENT
11 February 1999

A jury in Bristol's first trial of a woman charged with the murder of her husband, David, saw a series of photographs of the crime scene. The woman, who is alleged to have killed her husband on a road in the city, was seen in a state of shock and distress. The jury heard that the woman had been seen running away from the scene of the crime. The trial is expected to last several weeks.

Pensioners win £1.5bn funds battle

TWO PENSIONERS yesterday won a six-year legal battle which could present Britain's power industry with a bill for £1.5bn.

The Court of Appeal ruled that privatised electricity companies had unlawfully plundered their pension funds of the money in order to finance redundancies and reduce liabilities.

The pensioners, David Laws and Reg Mayes, successfully argued that pensions were "deferred pay and not a pot of gold to be raided by fat cats". The judgment could set a precedent for pensioners in a wide range of industries which have adopted similar tactics.

In a ruling which affects all 21 companies in the power supply industry, three judges decided that National Power acted unlawfully when it took £250m from the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme. The ruling also applied to National Grid's withdrawal of £46.3m.

Mr Laws, 60, of Chatham in Kent, registered his anger over news that employers might take the case to the House of Lords. "We are pensioners and we want our money now," he said. "We don't want to wait another two years or more." He said the decision could result in payments of £10,000 to pensioners. "The average widow's pension is £20 a week. Many pensioners are on housing benefit and caught in the poverty trap. Why should more of them die in poverty?"

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Mr Mayes, 75, of Ashted in Surrey, said he was delighted by the result but the case had dragged on for far too long. "I have had a pensioner of 82 crying to me: 'Please do something about this,'" he said.

Peter Woods, of the plaintiffs' solicitors Stephens Innocent, said further delay would simply mean more pensioners would die without seeing the benefits of the litigation.

The appeal judges decided there was nothing in the rules of the pension scheme which gave employers unilateral power "to forgive themselves their liabilities to pay contributions which are already due".

The fund could not be "whittled away by unilateral decisions on their part", said Lord Justice Brooke, sitting with Lords Justice Nourse and Schiemann.

However one drawback of yesterday's judgment was pointed out by Mr Justice Robert Walker, the High Court judge who found against the pensioners in 1997. He said that "any general exclusion of employers from surpluses would tend to make employers very reluctant to contribute to their pension schemes more than the bare minimum they could get away with".

He said it would be even more unfortunate if companies

abandoned schemes based on final salary in favour of money-purchase schemes which could be less advantageous to pensioners. The point was supported yesterday by Ken Jackson, leader of the engineering union, who described the ruling as "disastrous".

Harold Lewis, of the solicitors Eversheds, who represented National Grid, argued that yesterday's ruling made it clear that companies were allowed to withdraw money in their own interests where there was a surplus.

He pointed out that a further two-day hearing envisaged by the Court of Appeal would still have to address the question of how much money should go back into the fund and what should happen to it.

The industry's pension scheme benefits more than 200,000 people and has assets of £18bn. National Grid had taken 70 per cent of the 1992 surplus, with 30 per cent going to pensioners and scheme members, which reflected each side's respective contributions. The same policy has been adopted by other companies.

A spokesman for National Grid said the company was still scrutinising the judgment. "The full sums of money involved will not be known until we have had another hearing in court in two months' time."

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Reg Mayes (left) and David Laws yesterday at the High Court, where they won their pensions fight. James Horton

MISSING BILLIONS

THE 200,000 electricity pensioners affected by today's ruling by the Court of Appeal could each stand to benefit by more than £500 a year if the National Grid does not appeal to the House of Lords.

While the case involved just the Grid, the ruling will set a precedent for all the other former state-owned electricity companies, including National Power, PowerGen and the regional electricity companies.

Bacon & Woodrow, a firm of actuarial consultants, estimate the pensioners would each be entitled to an average £7,500 share of the £1.5bn surplus which may have to be returned to the £18bn fund. That would mean a benefit of between £500 and £750 a year, or an extra £10-15 a week. The exact figure will depend on the final salary and length of service of each pensioner.

Occupational pension schemes hold more than £650bn in member's assets and own more than one-third of the stock market equity. According to Inland Revenue statistics, there is at least £4bn in official pension fund surpluses. But experts believe the real figure runs into tens of billions.

Pension experts warned the case did not mean employees could claim ownership of surplus. And while the judgment says the National Grid scheme acted outside its powers, it did not insist the £46m at issue must be refunded.

ANDREW VERTY

'For sale: flat next to drug dealers'

AN ESTATE AGENT was forced to apologise yesterday over a candid newspaper advert for a flat which highlighted the property's close proximity to drug dealers.

The description of the £25,000 flat in Nailsea, near Bristol, which appeared in the Bristol Evening Post, read: "First-floor bedsit in generally good order

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

Drug dealers next door. Shops and local facilities nearby."

The advertisement, by Halifax Property Services, struck a raw nerve in an area which is notorious for a council-owned tower block called Crown House. The advertised flat is in a privately-owned block near by.

John Alvis, who lives in the flats, said yesterday: "There are no drug dealers here. It all goes on next door. I've been here for five years and although things seem to be getting better Crown House is still the target for a lot of police activity over drugs."

Avon and Somerset Police confirmed the area was a drugs

blackspot. A spokesman said: "We are aware of problems." Jonathon Upton, of Halifax Property Services, played down the advert. "I understand there was some kind of mistake in the ad, but it doesn't seem to have put off prospective buyers. I am told the schools 'near by' are good and it is generally seen as a nice, quiet area."

'Herd instinct' rules stock market

THE STOCK MARKET is ruled as much by the "herd instinct" of traders, as any rational assessment of a company's worth, scientists have found.

The assessment, based on mathematical assumptions more familiar to physicists, has revealed that stock markets are a fundamentally irrational enterprise. Thomas Lux, professor

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

of economics at the University of Bonn, and Michele Marchesi of the University of Cagliari in Italy, show in the journal *Nature* that some traders exert a significant influence on share prices by merely following the crowd.

The researchers found that

traders adopted two clear strategies. One, the "fundamentalist", expected prices to follow a company's future worth. The other, the "noise trader", tried to identify what other traders would do in order to anticipate price changes.

"Instead of focusing on fundamentals, these agents attempt to identify price trends

and patterns and also consider the behaviour of other traders as a source of information, which results in a tendency towards herding behaviour," the researchers say.

Within this group there are pessimists, who will sell shares irrationally, and optimists, who will buy them for the same illogical reasons.

PRODUCT RECALL

RECALL OF PRESCRIBED CALPOL PAEDIATRIC SUSPENSION

A product recall has been issued by Warner-Lambert Consumer Healthcare concerning the following two prescription medicines:

Calpol Paediatric Suspension and Calpol Paediatric Sugar Free Suspension

The recalled products are only available on prescription from your doctor in individually dispensed and labelled bottles.

The paracetamol in the affected bottles has shown some signs of separation, which may have resulted in an increased paracetamol level in the surface layer.

If the product was shaken as directed prior to consumption, there should be no safety issue.

As a precautionary measure, if you have received a prescribed version of Calpol or another pink paracetamol suspension **since the 1st of December 1998, DO NOT USE THIS PRODUCT.** Please return the product to the pharmacist who dispensed it, as soon as possible.

If any of this product has been given to your child in the last 2-3 days or if you are in any way concerned, please speak to your doctor immediately.

This recall does **not** affect the following Calpol variants sold directly to the public by pharmacies i.e. sold without a prescription, in a purple carton:

- Calpol Infant Suspension 70ml, 140ml and Sachets
- Calpol Sugar Free Infant Suspension 140ml and Sachets
- Calpol Six Plus and Calpol Six Plus Sugar Free Colour Free 100ml

Warner-Lambert is committed to providing safe and effective products to our patients. As part of that commitment, we are working with the Medicines Control Agency to ensure that this recall is accomplished as quickly as possible. We regret the necessity of this action and any inconvenience it may cause. We believe this action represents the appropriate precautionary measure. If you need further information, please call our Advisory Helpline: 0800 389 3897.



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For more details, call now.



Sample Property type	Before £200 grant	After £200 grant
Mid terrace house	For around £450	For around £250
2-3 Bedroom Semi-detached house	For around £350	For around £150
4 Bedroom Semi-detached house	For around £300	For around £100
3 Bedroom detached house	For around £250	For around £50
4 Bedroom detached house	For around £200	For around £0

Ask your installer about other insulation measures.

Only one rail operator is hitting its targets

ONLY ONE train company in Britain is hitting the performance targets demanded by the Government, according to figures that reveal yet another slump in punctuality.

Under a new system of giving the 25 privatised train companies an exam-style A to E grade, only the tiny but heavily-subsidised Island Line deserved the top mark. Another seven companies got a B with the remaining 17 classed as either mediocre or failing.

One operator, Silverlink, was awarded an E grade because of poor reliability.

Train operators are given grades for punctuality and reliability and the overall mark is the lower of the two. To qualify for an A for punctuality, operators must run at least 95 per cent of their trains on time, 90 per cent for a B, 85 per cent for a C and so on. Reliability is based on the number of trains cancelled, with an A grade for 99.5 per cent of services run, and 99 per cent for B.

Island Line, an 8.5 mile-long line on the Isle of Wight, won an A for running 96.0 per cent of trains on time and cancelling only 0.4 per cent. But figures published by the Office of Passenger Franchising (OPF) show it receives 63.2p in taxpayer subsidy for every passenger mile - equivalent to £2.82 for every journey made. This could make it cheaper to

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

hire a taxi for each passenger. By contrast, Gatwick Express, the airport shuttle which won a B, pays back to the Treasury 7.7p per mile - an average rebate of £2.32 per journey.

The detailed figures showed time-keeping worsened on more than half the network compared with a year ago with 45 route groups declining, 29 im-

proving and three staying the same. Reliability was better with 37 improving, 31 declining and nine stable.

The regional breakdown revealed some dramatic falls. Punctuality on Birmingham's Cross City North trains plunged 12 per cent to 74.3 per cent. In the month to November 12, Connex only managed to run 66 per cent of its Kent Link trains on time. ScotRail was the best major operator

with 95.9 per cent punctuality and 99.4 per cent reliability.

The Government condemned the performance as "disappointing". John Reid, the Transport Minister, said: "Passengers are getting a poor service and this is unacceptable. The new league table highlights more clearly than before which train operators are performing well and those who must try harder if they want a future in the rail industry."

The figures come a fortnight before a public summit of the railway industry called by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, after the last round of poor figures. The slump in performance comes despite a series of warnings to the industry. John O'Brien, the Franchising Director, said: "Punctuality remains poor. The results are not good enough, and year on year results do not yet point to a widespread improvement."

The Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, a passenger watchdog, said the performance by companies on some routes was "truly awful".

The Association of Train Operating Companies said they were working hard to improve reliability and timekeeping while managing the "massive" growth in passengers and extra trains.

James Gordon, Atoc director general, said: "Punctuality is proving a hard nut to crack in the face of such unprecedented growth. The fruits of the massive investment programme are beginning to come through but it will be some time before we see dramatic improvements."

Silverlink condemned the new system as misleading. Its managing director, Charles Belcher, said he was given an E grade because problems with train reliability on one stretch of line wiped out a B grade for punctuality.

WARNINGS THAT WENT IGNORED

DESPITE warnings, a change of Government, a new political agenda, and plans for a new regulator, almost nothing has changed.

■ South West Trains escapes £1m fine for cancellations: "You cannot achieve [your] objectives by taking a narrow and parochial view of your business and by standing on strict letter of your legal contracts and obligations." John Swift QC, Rail Regulator, letter to rail companies, June 11 1997

■ Figures show trains later than British Rail:

"Passengers deserve much better, bearing in mind the £1.8bn from taxpayers going into the privatised railway." John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, May 11, 1998

■ Complaints hit one million: "This shows how far rail operators still have to go to meet passenger expectations." Gavin Strong, Transport Minister, July 1

■ "This isn't a case of 'it's not broke, so don't fix it'. It is broke, I intend to fix it and the passengers are going to be at the forefront of my concern." John Prescott, August 13

■ Labour party conference: "If the current companies can't make the trains run on time, then I'll call time on the companies that run the trains." John Prescott, September 31

■ Punctuality falls - again: "Once again performance figures are disappointing overall. Passengers are getting a poor service and this is unacceptable." John Reid, February 10 1999

■ Figures show only one company performing well: "...the results are not good enough." John O'Brien, Franchising Director, February 10



Company	Punctuality %	Reliability %	Subsidy p
Island Line	95.0	99.6	63.2
ScotRail	95.9	99.4	21.2
West Midlands Railways	95.3	99.2	36.5
Central	93.1	99.5	22.7
Anglia	92.0	99.5	7.6
WAGN	91.2	99.1	3.6
Great Eastern	90.8	99.6	1.5
Gatwick Express	90.1	99.6	-7.7
TSR Rail	94.0	98.5	6.0
Northern Spirit	93.5	98.9	23.7
Wales & West	91.2	98.6	13.4
Connex South Central	90.0	98.9	4.1
Thameslink	89.9	98.5	-1.1
Midland Mainline	89.8	99.8	0.5
South West Trains	89.5	99.4	2.9
Great North Eastern	88.3	99.2	1.7
Chiltern	86.4	99.4	5.8
West Coast	85.9	99.4	3.4
North Western Trains	90.9	98.2	35.5
Cardiff Railway	86.3	98.1	33.0
Great Western	84.5	99.0	4.0
Connex South Eastern	83.8	98.7	4.9
Thames Valley	83.7	98.6	5.1
Great Country	82.3	99.3	8.1
Silverlink Trains	91.2	97.9	7.2

Train operators are graded for punctuality and reliability and then grouped into a final category by taking the lower of the two marks. Punctuality grades are: A - 95+; B - 90+; C - 85+; D - 80+; E - below 80. Reliability grades are: A - 99.5+; B - 99+; C - 98.5+; D - 98+; E - below 98.

Source: Office of Passenger Franchising
Subsidy - per passenger mile

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NEC

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● Dedicated VoiceMail key.

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● Up to 90 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.
● 90 name and number memory.
● Backlit display and keypad.
● Easy menu access.
● Caller identification.
● Choice of 25 ring tones.

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GA628 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

● Up to 25 minutes talktime/83 hours standby time.
● 90 name and number memory.
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So, if you want all the benefits of a flexible mortgage, call now. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm, and at weekends from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

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Calls may be monitored or recorded for staff training purposes. Rates correct as of 9 February 1999. Written questions are available on request. Mortgages are subject to status. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Security in the form of a legal mortgage over the property and a life policy is required. All loans require a professional valuation. All loans are subject to a credit check. The minimum amount is £1,000. We offer 95% loans for first time buyers and 90% for existing property owners, based on the lesser of the purchase price or valuation. For loans of 90% or above, Mortgage Guarantee Insurance is required. Interest rates may vary which could affect repayments. 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£2,758.68, £2,772.02, £2,785.36, £2,798.70, £2,812.04, £2,825.38, £2,838.72, £2,852.06, £2,865.40, £2,878.74, £2,892.08, £2,905.42, £2,918.76, £2,932.10, £2,945.44, £2,958.78, £2,972.12, £2,985.46, £2,998.80, £3,012.14, £3,025.48, £3,038.82, £3,052.16, £3,065.50, £3,078.84, £3,092.18, £3,105.52, £3,118.86, £3,132.20, £3,145.54, £3,158.88, £3,172.22, £3,185.56, £3,198.90, £3,212.24, £3,225.58, £3,238.92, £3,252.26, £3,265.60, £3,278.94, £3,292.28, £3,305.62, £3,318.96, £3,332.30, £3,345.64, £3,358.98, £3,372.32, £3,385.66, £3,398.99, £3,412.33, £3,425.67, £3,439.01, £3,452.35, £3,465.69, £3,479.03, £3,492.37, £3,505.71, £3,519.05, £3,532.39, £3,545.73, £3,559.07, £3,572.41, £3,585.75, £3,599.09, £3,612.43, £3,625.77, £3,639.11, £3,652.45, £3,665.79, £3,679.13, £3,692.47, £3,705.81, £3,719.15, £3,732.49, £3,745.83, £3,759.17, £3,772.51, £3,785.85, £3,799.19, £3,812.53, £3,825.87, £3,839.21, £3,852.55, £3,865.89, £3,879.23, £3,892.57, £3,905.91, £3,919.25, £3,932.59, £3,945.93, £3,959.27, 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'Baby hearts used for experiments'

BY LOUISE JURY

A HOSPITAL at the centre of a scandal over failed heart operations removed organs from some of the children who did not survive and kept them for research without telling their parents. A total of about 180 hearts are thought to have been removed and kept after unsuccessful operations at the Bristol Royal Infirmary between 1983 and 1995.

An investigation into children's heart surgery at the hospital found seriously high rates of mortality and brain damage. Two surgeons, James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana, and John Roylance, who ran the Bristol United Healthcare Trust, were found guilty of serious professional misconduct. Dr Roylance yesterday launched an appeal against being struck off the medical register.

With a public inquiry due to start next month, solicitors for the parents of the children said

they were very surprised not to have learnt of the practice of keeping organs until now, but they understood it was happening nationwide. The organs were kept after post-mortem examinations.

Michaela Willis, chair of the Bristol Children's Heart Action Group, said the disclosure would cause great distress: "It was known that hearts had been retained without knowledge or consent in isolated cases. But the trust had not made us aware until

now that hearts had been retained systematically. The shock and sorrow this disclosure will cause to parents is incalculable."

The trust has asked the action group, which represents around 300 families largely from the South-west and south Wales, for help in contacting families concerned.

Laurence Vick, leading solicitor for the group at the inquiry due to open on 16 March, said given events at the hospital and the scandal surrounding it, it was surprising it had taken so long for this to emerge.

Helen Rickard, 32, of Bristol, said she believed she was the first parent to discover that her child's heart had been kept by the hospital. Her daughter Samantha died aged 11 months after an operation in February 1992. It was only in May 1996, when she was examining Samantha's medical records, that she learnt the truth: "It was a great shock and I was very distressed," she said. The hospital

apologised and returned the organ, which she now proposes to donate for research.

A spokeswoman for the Bristol Royal Infirmary said the matter would be raised at the public inquiry. "We acknowledge there will be distress and we regret that." But she said the majority of post-mortem examinations were requested by the coroner and there was no legal requirement for parents' consent to be obtained in those circumstances.

Nicholas Harvey, Liberal Democrat MP for North Devon, who has constituents affected by the Bristol scandal, said that he would ask Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, for a review of laws governing the removal of organs from dead patients. "The tragic story of babies' deaths at the BRI just gets worse and worse. It's extremely upsetting for the parents of babies who died," he said.

Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust, yesterday began an appeal before the judicial committee of the Privy Council against being struck off.

Robert Francis QC, for Dr Roylance, said that Sir Donald Irvine, the chairman of the General Medical Council which conducted the disciplinary hearing, had failed to disclose that his own grandchild was being treated for a heart condition.

Master quits hunt named in cruelty allegations

BY KIM SENGUPTA

ONE OF the masters of a prestigious hunt accused of trapping foxes alive so they can be used for sport has announced he is giving up his position.

Major John Shaw's retirement from the Shinnington Hunt was revealed to members days after *The Independent* revealed the hunt was facing a fresh investigation into allegations that an artificial fox earth was found on its land. They were also told that a terrierman with the hunt will not have his contract renewed.

Nine months ago, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals rescued a pair of three-month-old cubs, with their ears mutilated, from the hunt's land in North Yorkshire. Last month, the RSPCA began another investigation after photographs and videos were produced, allegedly showing evidence of an artificial earth in the area.

On Boxing Day last year, hounds from the hunt killed a cat in a garden in Kirkby-moorside, and posters began to appear, put up by local farmers, showing a cat lying on its back



The Shinnington Hunt from which Major Shaw has retired as master. Top left: How *The Independent* revealed it was facing a new investigation

and the caption: "Latest from Shinnington pantomime productions, Puss in Boots".

A month earlier, Ryedale District Council ordered the hunt to remove an incinerator, used for animal carcasses, which it said had been causing air pollution.

The RSPCA dropped the prosecution over the cubs in December last year, because, it said, it did not have enough evidence. Major Shaw was questioned along with the terrierman and the two other

joint masters Andrew Osborne and Adam Waugh. They all denied any involvement in the matter.

Prior to his resignation, Major Shaw had been associated with the hunt most of his life. His father was a master of the hunt before him. He refused to make any comment yesterday, referring inquiries to the Countryside Alliance. A source close to the hunt said he expects to continue riding as a member.

There is no suggestion that Major Shaw was in any way involved in the allegations over the fox cubs or the artificial earth.

According to the source he had demanded that the matters be fully investigated.

The RSPCA said last night: "It is clear that after a number of embarrassing incidents involving the Shinnington Hunt Major Shaw had decided to loosen his links with the hunt."

"If other huntmasters around the country applied the same standards we would see lots of other retirements and resignations."

Last night, Major James Holt, chairman of Shinnington Hunt committee said: "The hunt committee does not employ the terrierman, that is done by the masters."

"I would not like to speculate about the reason for Major Shaw's resignation, but from the letter he sent me it appears to be a financial one. I am not aware he is embarrassed by the hunt. As a hunt, we do seem to get much more than our fair share of adverse publicity and a lot of it is unwarranted."

Shelley Fox wins fashion award

BY MELANIE RICKFY
Fashion Writer

THE FIRST major prize dedicated to giving young British designers a kick-start in the fashion industry was awarded last night by the Jerwood Foundation in London-based Shelley Fox.

The award, worth £125,000, includes a cash prize of £20,000, a retail order with the London department store Liberty worth £25,000, sponsorship for two London Fashion Week collections, a £50,000 interest-free loan and a free studio for one year. In short, a dream come true for the 32-year-old Scunthorpe-born designer who has struggled against the odds to keep her business afloat.

This is the first time the first involvement in fashion for the Jerwood Foundation, launched in 1997 by the late John Jerwood to offer dedicated and responsible funding and sponsorship to the arts, sciences, and cultural arena. It has run a prize for artists since 1994 and for film scriptwriters since 1998.

Shelley Fox graduated in 1996 from Central Saint Martins, and her first collection was picked up by Liberty. "My clothes... are about a feeling. Anyone can wear them because they are not fitted to the body in an obvious way. Rather the garment gives the body definition," she has said.

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£75 pm 9.1% APR
on *Options*

**With one years
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Monthly payments £74.04
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 Total credit charges £781.21*
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 Term 25 months
 24 monthly payments of
 £74.04
 Optional final purchase
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Fiesta Zetec
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- 16v 1.25 engine, 3dr
- Central locking
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- Alloy wheels

£108 pm 8.9% APR
on *Options*

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free insurance**

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Mileage pa 5,000
Deposit £3,342.50
Balance £6,207.50
Total credit charges £949.54
Total payable £10,499.54
Term 25 months
24-monthly payments of
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payment £4,514.00

Focus Zetec
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Independent rear suspension
Alloy wheels

£172 pm 11.9% APR
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 Deposit £4,550.00
 Balance £8,450.00
 Total credit charges £1,634.00*
 Total payable £14,634.00
 Term 25 months
 24 monthly payments of
 £171.25
 Optional final purchase
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***Included for a limited period**

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Driver's airbag
16v 1.8 engine
Air conditioning
Multi-link suspension
Alloy wheels

£197 pm 8.9% APR
on *Options*

**0% APR finance
over three years^{††}**

Monthly payments £197.00
Mileage pa 12,000
Deposit £4,907.00
Balance £9,113.00
Total credit charges £1,279.00
Total payable £15,299.00
Term 25 months
24 monthly payments of
£197.00
Optional final purchase
payment £5,594.00

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Ford Dealers

Amazon took cash for positive reviews

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AMAZON.COM, the online book shop which has been the darling of the media and the stock market for the past year, has admitted that it accepts cash in return for endorsing products. The company has also removed an invented review of a forthcoming biography on Monica Lewinsky from its site, raising questions about its reliability. The embarrassing setbacks come as the stock market re-thinks its love affair with the Internet and other electronic traders also hit problems. E-commerce is coming of age in the US, and it is proving painful. Amazon.com lists thousands of books on its website, with comments and recommendations, as well as a bestseller list. Customers can buy these electronically and have them delivered. For the past year, it has been the subject of endless fascination in the world media as the prototype of a new company, one that exists only electronically. It has succeeded in generating a sense of commu-



nity with intelligent reviews and a well-composed site. But some of the magic has been dissipated by news of how the reviews end up on Amazon.com's pages. The company

has been soliciting payments of up to \$10,000 for prominent placement of books in what it calls "co-operative" arrangements. Companies representing books such as John

Grisham's *The Testament* paid for prominent coverage, including e-mail alerts to customers. The company responded swiftly, offering refunds to everyone who had

REVIEW WAS MADE UP

Praise for Andrew Morton's *Monica's Story* on Amazon's website raised eyebrows mainly because the book had not been published. "I thought I knew it all, but *Monica's Story* blew me away," wrote Peter Feld, who later admitted he had invented the review. It was subsequently removed from the site. But yesterday, another review had appeared, under the name of Boygeorge@yahoo.com from Oval Office, DC. He gave it one star out of five, saying: "It blows. No cigar. No blue dress. Just yap, yap, yap about some cheesecake she ate last night." That, too, was removed within hours.



bought one of the recommended books. From next month, it will list which features on its pages are paid for. It emphasised that it could refuse to feature books if it did

not consider them suitable. "We have the largest staff of book editors online or off, and for a book that doesn't meet our standards, there is no amount of money that would cause us

to feature it," said Jeff Bezos, the founder. But the financial side of Amazon.com has also raised questions. It is a huge business, with 4.7 million books sold, 6.2 million customers and \$1bn in business last year. The company's stock went from 9 to 199 as investors went crazy over the prospects for e-commerce, giving it a value of over \$25bn.

Yet its losses actually increased last year, and it is unlikely to make a profit until 2001. Since the beginning of this year, the stock has halved in value. Some investment firms have limited the amount of cash which investors could bor-

row to gamble on e-stocks. It is not the only company facing problems. E-Trade, the online brokerage, is being sued after its trading system crashed four times. And Buy.com, an online retailer, lost more than \$60,000 after putting the wrong price on a computer monitor. Partly, these are problems of success. The online services have grown so rapidly that they are having trouble keeping up. But it is also a problem of age. The United States is ceasing to see online commerce as a fascinating toy, and starting to treat it seriously, not always to the companies' benefit.

Internet on TV coming to Sky sets

THE SATELLITE broadcaster BSkyB announced yesterday that from the autumn it will be able to offer customers access to e-mail and the Internet through their television screens.

Open, the interactive television company owned by BSkyB, BT, Panasonic and the HSBC bank, announced its launch plans and added Dixons, Argos and Somerfield to a list of retailers that will be offering goods through the system.

But analysts predict the main draw will be a system allowing customers to hook a telephone line up to a television set so that messages can be written and received without buying a computer. Up to seven people in each household will be able to have their own e-mail address through the system, which will operate with the use of a £30 keyboard.

Open is making its system as easy to use as possible by teaming up with Philips to manufacture an infra-red keyboard, which merely needs to be pointed at the television like a large remote control. The company's interactive services will be free to subscribers to Sky's digital channels and users will be able to send messages for the price of a phone call.

Interactive television should be a reality by spring, with a full service available in one million households by autumn. Yesterday BSkyB said it had signed up 350,000 households to its digital service since it launched in October. It is fore-

casting it will be in a million homes by autumn. On top of the e-mail system, Sky Digital subscribers will be able to play interactive games on screen, access bank accounts, and book theatre and concert tickets.

As well as the three retailers announced yesterday, subscribers will be able to shop at Woolworths and Iceland, and Open is looking to sign up music and video retailers, travel companies and health and beauty stores. The home shopping system just needs a normal remote control and for viewers to connect their telephone line to the back of a Sky Digital set-top box. Food, videos or tickets can be bought by selecting from on-screen menus. The system will remember what you buy regularly and ask if you want it again. Goods can be paid for by credit card or by setting up a virtual bank account with HSBC. Other charges will include the price of phone calls to order products, but browsing around the home shopping channels will be free. "We envision families being able to sit down and choose presents for this Christmas through their television sets," said a company spokesman. "The economics of the system will make it possible for the entire population to have their own e-mail address."

BSkyB interim results, Business, page 18

IN BRIEF

Cannibal killer jailed for life

A KILLER who cooked and ate part of his victim was jailed for life yesterday after pleading guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. Teesside Crown Court was told David Barker, 24, of Darlington, Co Durham, could kill again. Julie Paterson, 32, was strangled last April and her dismembered body found on wasteland.

Building society raids charges

CHRISTOPHER WOOD, 52, charged with committing 16 armed raids on building societies, was remanded in custody by magistrates in Tamworth, Staffordshire, yesterday. Mr Wood, of no fixed address, had already appeared in court facing 10 robbery-related charges.

Viagra users look for cheap thrill

DESPERATE VIAGRA users are chopping their pills to save money, risking increased side-effects from the anti-impotence drug, according to a report in the GPs' newspaper *Drugs*. The side-effects include headaches, flushes and occasional visual disturbance.

Getty's Irish passport cost £1m

THE SON of John Paul Getty has bought an Irish passport for £1m in a scheme which considers investments made in the Republic and their job creation potential. The government was unable to specify how Tara Getty, 30, had contributed to the economy.

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reviews



Self-portraits by Rembrandt at age 23, 34 and 63; the works are among nearly 70 images to go on show at the National Gallery this summer

Rembrandt's face as never seen before

THE NATIONAL Gallery is to stage a unique Rembrandt exhibition this summer, bringing together for the first time nearly all the artist's self-portraits.

Neil MacGregor, gallery director, said yesterday that there had never been an exhibition of the artist's self-portraits anywhere in the world. "It's a startling fact," he said. "It seems such an obvious idea."

No artist before or since Rembrandt has portrayed himself with such obsessive frequency, leaving 70 images - paintings, drawings and etchings.

The National Gallery has borrowed from public and private collections in Europe and the United States to assemble 30 paintings, 8 drawings and all 29 of the etchings.

They record Rembrandt's self-image from youthful insecurity to the booming self-confidence of his middle years and, in his late portraits, an examination of his ageing features.

One portrait shows the artist at the foot of the cross taking part in the Crucifixion. Mr MacGregor said this was a statement that all humanity had to share responsibility. Another work shows Rembrandt in the pose of a famous portrait of a poet by Titian. This, said Mr MacGregor, was a declaration that the painter could explore emotions, love and tragedy as much as the poet.

Many such artistic statements and insights into art history will be evident in the array of self-portraits. A painting from 1640 of Rembrandt at the age of 34 shows him in elegant pose and splendid costume both echoing and challenging his Renaissance predecessors. In the decade of personal and professional setbacks after the death of his wife Saskia in 1642, the number of self-portraits he painted declined dramatically. When he returned to painting himself, he often abandoned elaborate dress and glamorous poses to confront himself frankly as a working artist with brush and palette in hand.

Mr MacGregor said that in the late portraits and his observation of his own ageing features, "Rembrandt reveals in his ability to sculpt the image in paint, engaging us in the very process of making a masterpiece. It was for such virtuoso displays of painterly technique - as much as for his image that Rembrandt self-portraits were prized."

Also included in the exhibition are groups of self-portrait paintings and drawings by Rembrandt's pupils, revealing how his images influenced his followers.

The exhibition - Rembrandt by Himself - opens on 9 June and runs until 5 September.

Internet on TV coming to Sky sets

Euro tax threat to UK art market

MINISTERS are drawing up urgent measures to try to protect Britain's £2.5bn art market amid claims that business may be driven abroad.

They have been warned that the impact of European Union taxes - and harmonisation of value added tax on arts, antiques and jewellery - will weaken the European market.

Although Britain opposes the harmonisation plan, other EU members, led by the German presidency, are expected to go ahead with the levy at a meeting in Brussels on 25 February.

The measure would raise VAT on the items from 2.5 per cent to 5 per cent in Britain by June this year. Even with the introduction in 1995 of a reduced rate of VAT, sales have fallen by nearly 30 per cent.

A second blow will come with the introduction in this country of the *droit de suite* levy, which for 70 years after an artist's death is charged at between 2 per cent and 4 per cent of every resale of the art work, other than sales between individuals. The money, after administration costs, is given to the artist's family.

While the change will benefit artists, it could drive dealers out of the EU altogether and build up rival centres such as New York and Geneva where no such taxes apply.

The British Art Foundation has warned that London's pivotal position in the global art scene, where it holds about 40 per cent of all art sales and employs 40,000 people, will be destroyed at a stroke.

Kim Howells, the Trade and Industry minister, admitted

that he saw "no possibility" that the European Commission might change its mind on the matter. "We have searched for allies as the previous government searched for allies," he said.

But while the Government was determined to fight the measures, Britain had no automatic right to block them.

The Tory MP Virginia Bottomley, a former secretary of state for national heritage, said the British art market was "formidably successful" and it was vital ministers fought its cause.

The market was not only an "enormous cultural asset" but also a "great commercial contributor".

David Heathcoat-Amory, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said anticipation of the *droit de suite* was already damaging the London and UK markets. "Objects for sale will simply be transferred away from this country, out of the UK and out of the EU. I have to conclude that there is some resentment or jealousy that the British art market in London is not fully European," he said.

"The Council of Ministers in two weeks' time are engaging in an act of quite unnecessary vandalism."

Peter Brooke, the president of the British Art Market and Tory MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, added: "These moves will not enlarge the EU market, they will simply export trade and jobs to competitors who could be forgiven for scarcely believing their good fortune."

Fugitive sniffed out by halitosis

AS A method of throwing the police off the scent, disappearing underwater and breathing through a pipe was quite ingenious. But while the young fugitive was neither seen nor heard, his bad breath gave him away.

Steven Jones's James Bond-style escape ended when a police dog, Barney, got a whiff of his breath. The German shepherd picked up the scent emanating from Jones' makeshift breathing apparatus - a long piece of pipe used as a snorkel.

Details of the bizarre arrest emerged yesterday, when Jones, 19, from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, appeared in the local magistrates court. He was released on unconditional bail after admitting to burgling a B&Q garden centre in Stoke-on-Trent and stealing equipment worth £400.

The chase which ended in the underwater escapade

began when Constable Keith Booth was called to the garden centre at 2.30am on 16 July last year and saw a man running away. "Barney started chasing and was slowly but surely catching up with him as they ran towards the river," he said. "I was following close behind, but as I reached the river bank there was an eerie silence - you could feel the stillness. It appeared that the man had simply vanished into thin air."

Barney ran barking into the river Trent, forcing Mr Jones to the surface. He had been underwater for 10 minutes.

PC Booth, who has spent 13 years with the dog section, said: "The man thought he could outwit him by camouflaging his smell underwater. Unfortunately for him, Barney managed to pick out the scent."

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They say it's Europe's richest inner city. Try telling them that in Hackney

BY PAUL VALLELY

PINK CHAMPAGNE, you might have thought, was a bit decadent for a working lunch. But then this is the City of London, which yesterday learnt that it beads the European wealth league. Yesterday, inner London, of which the City forms a part, knocked the previous leader, Hamburg, into second place by a considerable margin.

The rosé fizz was £39.50 a bottle, with smoked salmon sandwiches at £2.70 a round. A special occasion? I asked the round-faced youth in his plain blue Italian suit in the wine bar near the new multi-million pound Broadgate Centre which houses financial wealth-creators like Warburg, UBS and Lehman Brothers.

"No," he said, "some days we have the pink and some days the brut."

But this is a tale of two lunches. Five minutes up the road Helen Darcy, a solitary pensioner, was finishing off her midday meal in the Kingsland cafe in the borough of Hackney. Egg and chips was £1.80, but today she had splashed out and had bacon too, which brought it to £2.45, plus 30p for a mug of tea.

She eats out there twice a week. It is cheaper than eating in for some meals, she said. It helps her eke out the £50 a fortnight she draws for food and gas.

Hackney is part of the outer London area which earns only one-third of what inner London does, according to the European Union's statistical service, Eurostat.

Once you had to go to the Third World to find wealth and poverty sitting in such cheek-by-jowl proximity. And while it is true that the contrasts might not be as severe as in some where like Ethiopia, in the Addis Ababa Hilton stands surrounded by mud huts and shanty homes, the contrast in London today is grim and striking.

In modern Britain, the gap between rich and poor continues to grow, it seems. The statistics give a hint of it. In the City, the average gross wage, according to the National Statistics Office, is £749.50 a week, compared with £565.30 in Hackney, and just £374.10 in the borough of Lewisham.

But these are only averages. The City wine bar is surrounded by a world of smart restaurants with private rooms, Dvorak lunchtime concerts, and jewellers shops so swish that they don't display the price in the window (£290



Poverty is a rare sight among the wealth of the business community in the City of London

for a nice set of plain white gold cufflinks, when you ask. The Hackney café, less than one mile away, is in a different world. It stands in a parade of shops which include a second-hand clothes store, boarded-up buildings plastered with fly posters, and a bailiff's office whose security doors and anonymous name plate are betrayed by a bolder, exasperated notice in the neighbouring shop which announces: "Please note we

are not Drakes Bailiffs. They are next door." Bags of rubbish and old bicycle wheels litter the street. Across the road are the offices of the Family Welfare Association, a charity which offers grants to the desperately poor. Two shops down, the Citizens' Advice Bureau carries in its window a poster from the Child Poverty Action Group setting out a long list of currently available state benefits. The newsagents' no-

ticeboards are full of advertisements asking for "out workers" to do "sewing, clerical, electrical and packing in your own home". Childminders advertise vacancies. In the large Oxfam shop in the former Dalston Snooker Centre, people form long queues at the till to buy the old clothes.

Not far away, a solicitor's office carries by its door a laminated sheet proclaiming two hours' free advice on domestic violence for those on income support, family credit, disability working allowance or those with an income of less than £80 a week. Representation at police stations is also available, it says.

Did the contrast between these two worlds hold any concerns for the brokers and dealers in the champagne bar? "I'm not saying anything," said the youth in the Italian suit. "And I'm not giving my name in case you take the piss."

It revealed, I thought, a consciousness of sorts, however suppressed. Around him others made anodyne statements about "market forces". "It's the way life is, I'm afraid," said one buyer and seller of other people's efforts. "It's the way life is," said Mrs Darcy as she finished her chips. "But I don't like it. It makes me feel small to think they earn in one week more than I have in all my savings in the bank. It makes you wonder."

Asian decoys to trap racists

BY JASON BENNETTO
AND KATHY MARKS

PLAIN-CLOTHED Asian police officers are to be used outside football grounds as "decoys" to arrest people who racially abuse them.

The controversial strategy forms part of a new approach by Scotland Yard, outlined in a document called Operation Spectrum, a copy of which has been obtained by The Independent. The tactics will include the use of DNA testing on racist material, such as posters, paid informants, and greater use of undercover officers.

It comes amid growing police concern over the findings of the inquiry into the death of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence. The operation will be seen by some as a pre-emptive strike against inevitable criticisms in the inquiry.

Under the new approach, "sting" operations will be mounted at football grounds and pubs. Racist pupils and teachers in schools, universities and colleges will be targeted.

The use of "undercover operations" will include obtaining evidence against racist police as well as infiltrating far-right organisations. There are also plans to use a computer system linked to surveillance cameras that can identify a vehicle number plate and owner in seconds.

Operation Spectrum has been drawn up by the Metropolitan Police's racial and violent crime task force, headed by Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Griev.

It also outlines a range of initiatives to rebuild community relations. This will include promoting anti-racist measures by advertising on beer mats, tax discs, till receipts and posters. Cash rewards will be offered for information about racist crime. Anti-racist concerts and open days are also planned.

Detective Inspector Richard Walton, the author of the report, said: "This document shows that we can use the same techniques used against terrorists and drug dealers as for race crimes. It also shows that race crimes are a top priority."

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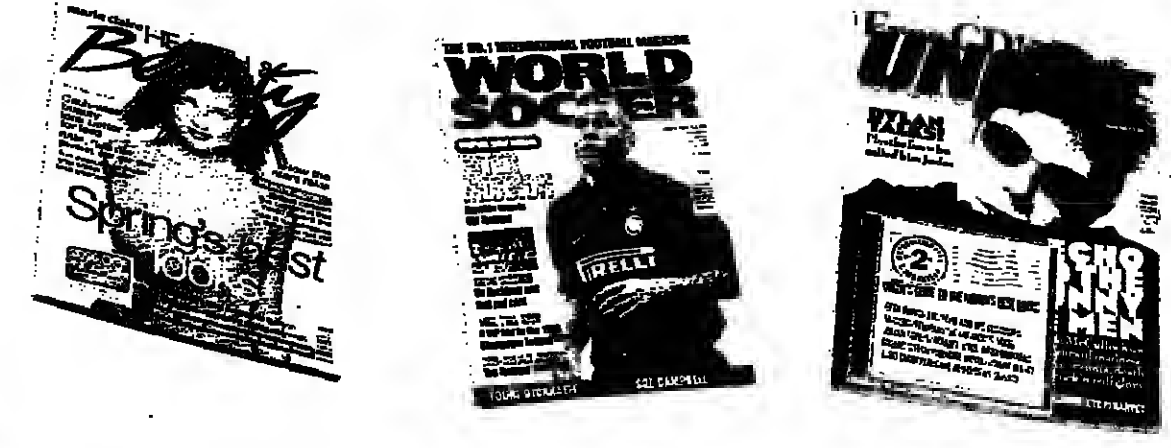
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Blair 'begs' over Rover

GERMANY'S LEADING tabloid launched a scathing attack yesterday on Tony Blair, accusing him of "begging" on behalf of Rover's car factories.

The vitriolic editorial in *Bild* Zeitsung illustrates German rage over the plight of the once-mighty BMW company, which has fallen on hard times since it invested in Britain. "The British Rover plants were scrap-heaps when BMW bought them in January 1994," it states. Since then, the Munich-based company had poured in "senseless billions". But now Mr Blair has asked Chancellor Gerhard Schröder for his help. "Is the Chancellor supposed to hold a whip-round for the Britons?" *Bild* asks indignantly, not forgetting to mention that "Blair the Beggar" had proudly presented himself in the past as a standard-bearer for economic modernity in Europe.

BMW's tribulations - as they appear from Germany - have touched a raw nerve. The company lost its two most talented

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

managers. Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive, was sacked, because his British strategy was seen to have failed. His heir apparent, Wolfgang Reitzle, was thwarted by employee representatives on the board, who had been lobbied by British union leaders.

The car-maker now finds itself hunted by predators. Take-over rumours sweeping the markets are quashed by the billionaire Quandt family who own about half the shares. To Germans this all seems very unfair, especially when they hear that the British workers who they feel are responsible for the mayhem have somehow managed to save their skins.

■ The BBC has said it will close its German language World Service programmes after 50 years to make more use of the Internet and FM networks. Recent audience research showed that nine out of 10 Berliners listened in English.



Clean-up crews tackle oil leaking from the cargo ship 'New Carissa', which has been grounded near Coos Bay, Oregon, for a week

Jeff Barnard/AP

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Bronx seethes after shooting

THE DEATH last week of an unarmed African immigrant in a fusillade of bullets unleashed by four white police officers has lit a bonfire under simmering racial tension in New York and directed the spotlight on the zero-tolerance law-enforcement policies of the city's Republican mayor, Rudolph Giuliani.

Confusion surrounds the circumstances of the incident when the four officers fired 41 shots at Amadou Diallo, an immigrant from Guinea, West Africa, after apparently confronting him last Thursday in the hallway of the Bronx apartment building where he lived last. He died from 19 bullet wounds.

Leaders of the black community, including the veteran activist and political firebrand the Rev Al Sharpton, have demanded a federal investigation of the shooting, saying that it exposes a policy of indiscriminate brutality by the city's police against innocent African Americans.

Emotions are expected to run high at a memorial service to be held in Harlem tomorrow. Mr Diallo, 22, arrived in New York from Guinea two years ago and worked as a street vendor in Manhattan. He spoke almost no English and was carrying only a wallet and a beeper when he was gunned down.

Lawyers for the four officers, who are expected to testify shortly before a grand jury, have said they opened fire because they believed Mr Diallo was armed and may have been reaching for a gun when they challenged him. They were patrolling the area in search of a serial rapist.

The affair has ballooned into a crisis for Mr Giuliani, who cancelled a political visit to Texas today to attend the memorial service. The Mayor,

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

who meets the British Opposition Leader, William Hague, here on Saturday, was the object of passionate denunciation at a rally of more than 1,000 people, almost all of them African Americans, outside City Hall on yesterday.

"If they can shoot anyone 41 times, they can shoot everyone 41 times," Mr Sharpton told the angry crowd. "It may start with blacks and Latinos but it will spread everywhere". He led the throng in chanting "No justice, no peace" as many waved banners accusing Mr Giuliani of condoning police brutality.

The shooting has become a symbol of the darker side of the zero-tolerance approach adopted under Mr Giuliani's administration, which has otherwise been credited with a drop in violent-crime rates. "This just shows how the police will shoot a black man for no reason," said Shahr Mack, one of the many children at the City Hall rally.

The victim's mother, Kadiadou Diallo, flew to New York from Guinea and visited the Bronx apartment house where her son died.

Emerging from a black van, she fell to her knees before throngs of reporters and sympathisers wailing "Why? Why? Why?" She then stumbled to the building, repeatedly crying out "Amadou, Amadou, Amadou".

She and her husband, who is due here today, will take the body back to Guinea. New York's Police Commissioner, Howard Safir, ordered his department to arrange refresher courses for street-crime units to instruct them on approaching suspects and determining whether or not they are armed and represent a genuine security threat.

Teletubby is secret gay, says evangelist

TINKY WINKY, the purple Teletubby who carries a red patent handbag in the children's BBC television show, was "outed" yesterday as a homosexual by *National Liberty Journal*, an American magazine edited by the Christian right-wing evangelist, the Rev Jerry Falwell.

In an article entitled "Parents Alert: Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet", the magazine issued a warning to parents in the United States to shield their children from the corrupting influence of the character, who lives in a dome with the other Teletubbies - Dipsy, La La and Po. With his boy's voice and ditsy

BY DAVID USBORNE

demeanour, Tinky Winky is in fact a covert gay role model, the article said.

Steve Rice, spokesman for The Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Company, which represents Teletubbies in the US, was emphatic: "To think we would be putting sexual innuendo in a children's show is kind of outlandish".

But the preacher's journal is convinced of the Teletubby's orientation: "[Tinky Winky] is purple - the gay pride color, and his antenna is shaped like a triangle - the gay pride symbol."

Royal

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Royal intrigue cost Hassan his crown

CROWN PRINCE Hassan knew that the game of kings had ended the moment his brother landed at Amman's Queen Alia airport last month. There was a formal embrace from the man who had supposedly won his long battle with cancer. But King Hussein ignored Hassan's son, Rashid, and then showed what he thought of his Crown Prince by choosing to travel into the city not with Hassan - as was his normal routine - but alongside his wife, Queen Noor. Hassan was left behind.

The man who had waited 34 years to be the king of Jordan was stunned. For weeks, he had heard the rumours that his days as crown prince were numbered: a Lebanese newspaper suggested that King Hussein believed that his younger brother was plotting a coup.

But the king had reassured Hassan only days earlier that he intended to make him regent. Hassan's desperate, melodramatic attempt to prove his good faith is already the talk of Amman.

He presented himself before the king and - according to impeccable sources - asked Hussein bluntly: "How have I offended you? Here is my gun. If I have been disloyal to you, please shoot me - but do not disgrace me."

The king ordered Hassan to take his gun back and reassured him yet again. When a similar account to this story appeared in the small Jordanian newspaper *Al-Majed*, its editor was accused of "insulting the monarchy".

Jordan's authorities are sensitive to the slightest criticism of the royal family, but in the days that have followed the king's death it has been possible to put together an account of Crown Prince Hassan's fall from grace.

In fact, the sequel to his astonishing gesture with the gun was, if anything, even more striking. The king called Hassan to the royal palace late on 20 January to present him with his letter of dismissal. A photographer was waiting to snap Hassan handing over his insignia to the new crown prince - and now king - Abdullah. Hassan returned to his car without the time to read the document: driving away, he turned on the radio only to hear the contents of the unopened letter on the national news.

Many Jordanians feel that the manner of his dismissal was unnecessarily cruel.

As Crown Prince, Hassan had been ordered by the king to handle Jordan's development projects - a role that inevitably brought him into conflict with the government of the former prime minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who is said to dislike Hassan personally. Premiers believed that Hassan trespassed on their prerogatives - something he had no right to do

BY ROBERT FISK
in Amman

since the right of succession is the crown prince's only constitutional power.

Even before King Hussein's brave, hopeless insistence of his recovery on 19 January, the royal court had been awash with stories that the monarch was turning against his brother. First, the name of Abdullah would be mooted, then that of Hamzah, his son by Queen Noor.

Hassan's concerns only increased when he realised the extent to which his communications were being monitored - for years, he had spoken, half-jokingly, to visitors about



Queen Noor: Princess Sarvath risked her anger

the taps on his telephone.

In the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, King Hussein was told that Hassan had tried to fire the chief of staff of the army, that Hassan's Pakistani-born wife, Princess Sarvath, had gone so far as to change the carpets in the royal palace in anticipation of becoming queen.

The truth appears to be more prosaic.

At a cost of more than £3m, King Hussein had built a house for Field Marshal Abdul-Hafez Mureil-Kasabeh, a very ugly but otherwise magnificent pile on top of a hill outside of Amman.

Rumour had it that Wahid bin Talal, a Saudi millionaire, wanted to purchase the property for £10m but Crown Prince Hassan, after consultations with the king, told the Saudi that the property belonged to the field marshal. Hassan's response - which appears to have been in accordance with the king's wishes - nevertheless provoked the story that he wanted to remove the field marshal. And the king was not amused.

Then came the tale of the carpets. Hassan's home is a charming building once owned by the former British ambassador, Sir Alec Kirkbride, but last year the Crown Prince decided that after years of neglect, the house should be refurbished, along with its adjoining offices. Princess Sarvath, so it is said, wanted to change the decoration in both house and office. And a new story, as unfair as it appears to be untrue, went the rounds - that the princess was "changing the

royal palace" even before the sick king had died.

But Hassan could make dangerous mistakes.

Against the advice of his friends, he commiserated before parliament with the suffering of Iraqi civilians under United Nations sanctions. The Iraqi government reacted angrily because it believed that Hassan had not given sufficient support to the regime, while the king reportedly complained that the crown prince had not been tough enough on the Iraqis.

Princess Sarvath was also widely believed to want to name her son, Rashid, as crown prince when Hassan became king - an idea that would inevitably anger Queen Noor. Those around the princess advised her to forget the notion but it seems that Hassan, too, continued to toy with the idea of naming his own son crown prince once he gained the throne.

In the first days of his own regency, Abdullah showed considerable generosity to his deposed uncle. He greeted him warmly and - when Hassan offered to hand over control of the six academic institutions that he ran - the new king insisted that Hassan should continue to administer the projects.

In a nation in which the monarchy is the one unifying bond, it is as well that the two men appear to get on well. More royal shenanigans, and Jordanians will be wondering what kind of royal family they have inherited.



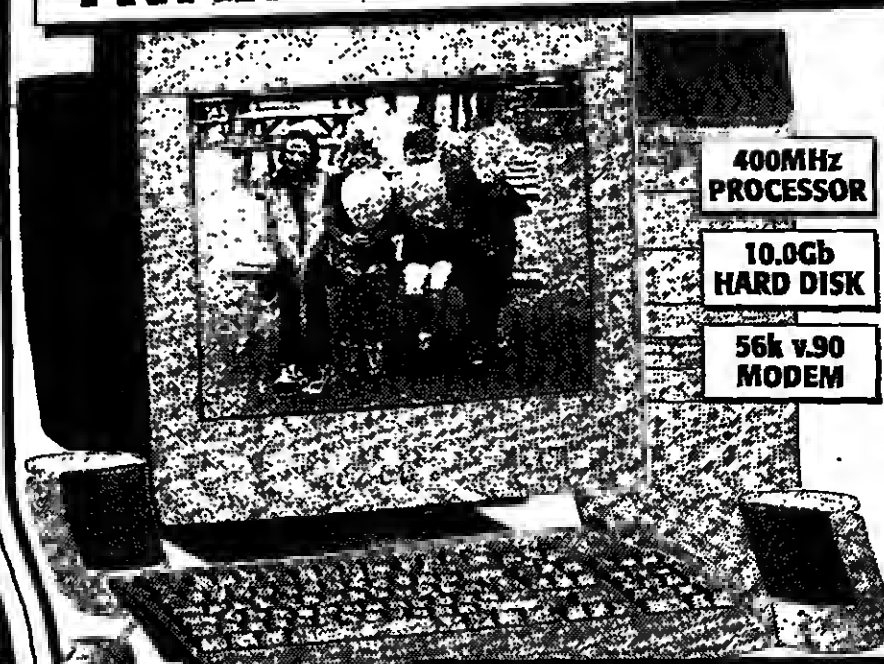
The overlooked crown prince, Hassan, left, kisses King Abdullah. The new king is said to be treating his uncle well

Jerome Delay

Bronx seethes after shooting

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Hundreds feared drowned as ship sinks in storm

A helicopter breaks up (top) then explodes as it hits a building in Cape Town yesterday, killing the four crew. It had been lowering an air conditioning unit. AE

Mr Hermanto said he distributed 200 life jackets to those on board after the ship started to fill with water. Others were ordered to cling to blocks of wood and drums to stay afloat.

Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands and relies heavily of sea transport. However, passengers and cargo vessels are often poorly maintained and overloaded. (AP)

**BY TERESA POOLE
AND ANDREW MARSHALL**

The classified report said the Chinese military has more than 150 M-9 and M-11 missiles aimed at Taiwan, according to the *Financial Times*. Crucially, the report quoted "military analysts" in Washington as saying the report forecast this would increase to 650 missiles in the "next several years".

However, with relations between Peking and Taipei at their best for years, it is the Sino-US "strategic partnership" which looks set for a bit of argument over missile deployments. Mrs Albright is due in Peking in March to lay the ground for the visit by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese prime minister, to the US in the spring. Sino-US ties are already shaky.



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Christi

AT

hundreds feared
owned as ship
lks in storm



Christians demonstrating at the funeral of Bishop John Joseph, who killed himself last year to protest against religious persecution in Pakistan

Pen tribe in fight to write

STREET LIFE
ISLAMABAD

"THIS LETTER? No, I cannot send it to my officer. It is improper," said the clerk at the federal ministry for works in Islamabad.

"What is improper about it?" I asked him.

"You say, 'Dear sir', and then you go straight to what you want. It is not how you write a letter to a senior officer. I will tell you how to write," he said.

He started dictating to me: "With due respect and humble submission, I beg to state that..." I had to write what he wanted because I knew he would never send the letter to his officer if I did not follow his advice. It is precisely this culture that is being resisted by Pakistan's journalists.

"We want freedom. Free the press," I looked out at the crowd as they marched towards parliament square. There were several hundred journalists - almost two-thirds of the city's "pen tribe", as they are called in the national language, Urdu.

In a country where people still insist official letters conclude with "your most obedient servant", press freedom seems a little out of place. But journalists are a tough lot. They never give up.

The struggle for press freedom in Pakistan started soon after its independence in 1947. Generations have come and gone. It seems like only yesterday that we used to march down Islamabad's streets chanting slogans against General Zia ul Haq and his junta. A growing resentment against his rule forced him to give limited freedom to the press in 1985.

Slowly but steadily, journalists gained more freedom. Weak governments and differences within the country's ruling elite made the task easier. The rulers needed a free press to attack one another,

so the press became almost as free as it could be in a developing country. The rulers tried to muzzle it but could not. They did not have enough votes in the parliament to revive the censorship laws.

But this all changed when Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party won a two-thirds majority in the 1997 elections. Although more than 65 per cent of people did not vote, Prime Minister Sharif presented this victory as "a heavy mandate" and set about accumulating as much power as possible. Members of parliament were deprived of the right to vote against the desires of their party leader. The powers of the president were curtailed.

A tax dispute with the largest newspaper group, Jang, was used to fuel a campaign against the press. The proprietors were asked to sack the journalists the government did not like. Police started following senior journalists. Journalists who protested were beaten.

But this did not discourage the journalists. They shielded individual colleagues to prevent arrests or beatings. They travelled together, ate together, slept in the same houses. Hundreds gathered outside the Jang office every night to brave the police batons trying to prevent the delivery of newspaper.

Their newspaper was reduced from 20 to four pages. But they did not give up. Their struggle is not about taxes, nor pay. It is for a free press. So the struggle continues. With grey hair and long careers in journalism we are joining a younger generation in protesting. "Down with dictators. Long live democracy."

ANWAR IQBAL
Anwar Iqbal is assistant editor of 'The News' in Islamabad

'Christian Taliban' take up arms

CHRISTIANS in Pakistan are turning to violent militant movements in a bid to counter increasing sectarian attacks and discrimination. Community leaders fear this may lead to a civil war with Muslims.

Several Pakistani Christians claim to have infiltrated hard-line Islamic movements and to have spent months in training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan learning guerrilla tactics. Others have joined the "Christian Taliban" or called for the formation of armed defence organisations modelled on extremist Muslim groups.

Christians suffer severe discrimination in Pakistan. They are effectively barred from many jobs, frequently harassed by the police and, in cities, con-

finned to ghettos. Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which impose death sentences for slandering Islam, result in frequent false accusations against them, many of which are upheld by the courts. Physical attacks are common, too. Earlier this year, a bomb was planted in a cathedral in the southern port city of Karachi.

Father Bonnie Mendes, a senior community leader, said Catholic church elders were deeply worried by the trend towards violence. "Young people are being forced into the hands of extremists who believe guns and bombs are the only way," he said. "We have to stress the

way of peace, justice and love. The [government] has to face up to realities and make changes, as we're heading for a very dangerous situation."

For some, however, the time for direct action has already come. One Christian from Faisalabad claimed recently to have been one of 35 Christians from all over Pakistan who had pretended to be Muslims so as to be trained by two extremist Islamic organisations.

Calling himself "Simon Mujahid" (freedom fighter) - mirroring the aliases taken by Muslim extremists who believe they are fighting a holy war - the man, in his 30s, said he had taken up arms because Christians in Pakistan needed to be able to defend themselves.

"Two other men came with me from Faisalabad and we spent several months training in the camps. Since coming back we have bought weapons so we are ready for any attack," he said.

Mujahid said that he decided that violence was necessary when the Catholic bishop John Joseph committed suicide in Faisalabad last year to publicise the case of a Christian sentenced to death for slandering Islam by supporting the British author Salman Rushdie.

A local reporter said he had visited Mujahid in the Christian ghetto in Faisalabad and had been shown a cache of automatic weapons and hand-guns.

There are other signs of the growing militancy among the Christians. In Peshawar, the

north-western city on the border with Afghanistan, religious leaders have formed a "Christian Taliban". The movement's aims are unclear but appear to be a mixture of self-defence and, in a clear copy of the original Taliban, the enforcement of a harsh moral code.



Even leaders of the community have been hinting at the use of force. Last year, Alexander Malik, the Bishop of Lahore, called for volunteers for a new organisation called the Sipah-e-Masih (Defenders of the Messiah). Two of the most feared Islamic organisations are the Sunni Muslim Sipah-e-Sahaba and the Sipah-e-Mohammed, which claim to fight for the rights of Shia Muslims. Sources among church elders

in Lahore said last week that the Sipah-e-Masih were "ready and waiting".

Hardline Islamic groups have been linked to dozens of murders and bomb blasts. Thousands of people have died in sectarian violence in Pakistan over the past five years. Last month, Sunni gunmen killed 17 worshippers at a Shia mosque, sparking a spate of tit-for-tat murders.


The government has instituted special anti-terrorism courts but neither these, nor a series of extra-judicial killings by police, appear to have had any effect. Critics say the government's bid to make Islamic law supreme has heightened religious feelings and increased intolerance.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Property squeeze set to continue

THE SQUEEZE on the property market is set to continue in 1999 with just one in ten people looking to move home during the year according to a survey by the Alliance & Leicester. The survey of 4,500 adults also shows that the number of homeowners wanting to move in the South-east fell from 11 per cent to just 7 per cent. The mortgage bank said the decline in the South-east was due to faltering confidence in the region, where 16 per cent felt less confident about the market than last year.

650 jobs to be cut at BP

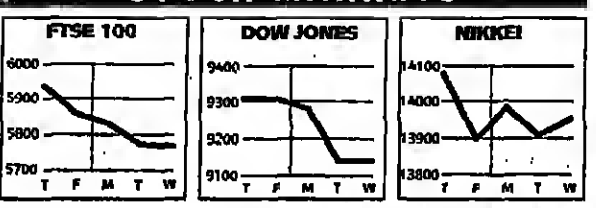
BP, the petro-chemical giant, yesterday announced 650 job losses, while a further 1,200 jobs came under threat at Kvaerner's Govan shipyard in Scotland. BP said 400 jobs would be "phased out" over the next two years at its Grangemouth complex in Stirlingshire, which employs 2,500, and 250 more would go at its Saltend plant in Hull, which has 1,230. Separately,

the Scottish Office industry minister Lord Macdonald (pictured) yesterday called for talks with the management at Govan after a crisis meeting with unions. The call came after the yard failed to secure a £30m contract to build a British Antarctic Survey vessel.

Independent appoints Merrill

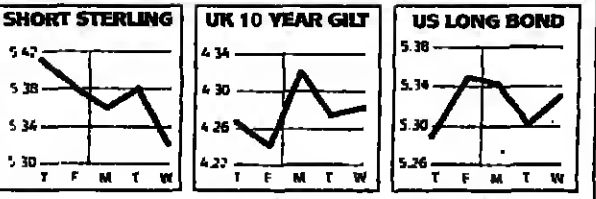
INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, the international media group which publishes *The Independent* in the UK, yesterday appointed Merrill Lynch as its corporate brokers worldwide. The group chief executive, Liam Healy, said that, given the global nature of the group's business, the appointment of a leading international investment bank with strong institutional links would help Independent Newspapers take its story to a wider audience. Independent Newspapers has also appointed the Irish brokers Goodbody alongside the group's existing brokers J&E Davy.

STOCK MARKETS



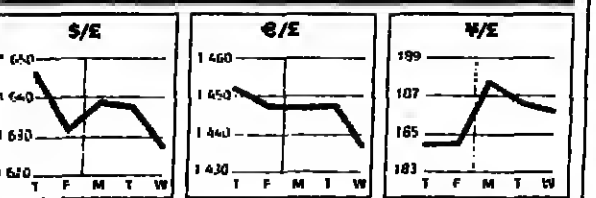
Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5770.20	-8.70	-0.17	6195.60	4599.20	2.72
FTSE 250	5157.60	-19.90	-0.38	5970.90	4247.60	3.22
FTSE 350	2753.50	-5.60	-0.20	2999.10	2110.40	2.80
FTSE All Share	2665.16	-5.49	-0.21	2886.52	2143.53	2.84
FTSE SmallCap	2216.30	-5.70	-0.26	2793.90	1834.40	3.63
FTSE Fledgling	1213.00	-5.10	-0.42	1517.10	1046.20	4.46
FTSE AIM	624.40	-2.20	-0.35	1146.90	761.30	1.22
FTSE Europe 100	2663.70	-20.82	-0.78	3079.27	2018.15	2.21
FTSE Europe 300	1164.86	-8.16	-0.70	1332.07	890.63	2.04
Dow Jones	9141.78	6.44	0.07	9647.96	7400.30	1.68
Nikkei	13952.40	49.74	0.36	17352.35	12787.90	1.04
Hang Seng	9076.33	-168.16	-1.82	11926.16	6544.79	3.87
Dax	4796.02	-107.53	-2.19	6217.83	3833.71	1.78
S&P 500	1219.17	-2.92	-0.24	1283.64	923.32	1.30
Nasdaq	2309.61	-1.40	-0.06	2533.44	1357.09	0.30
London 300	6420.10	-23.47	-0.36	7897.70	5320.90	1.65
Brazil Bovespa	8666.96	-4.79	-0.06	12399.14	4575.69	7.10
Belgium Bel20	3278.73	-56.46	-1.67	3713.21	2613.32	2.13
Amsterdam AEX	512.49	-5.57	-1.08	600.65	366.58	1.92
France CAC 40	4001.93	-36.56	-0.91	4404.94	2881.21	2.02
Madrid IBEX 35	32879.00	543.00	1.66	39170.00	24175.00	1.24
Madrid IBEX 35	3656.70	196.70	5.38	10989.80	6669.90	1.93
Irish Overall	5149.38	-15.17	-0.37	5581.70	3725.77	1.32
S. Korea Comp	524.49	1.11	0.21	651.95	272.37	0.02
Australia ASX	2854.80	-35.90	-1.24	2948.70	2386.70	3.22

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
UK	5.51	5.19	5.29	5.25	4.28	4.73	4.27	4.74
US	5.00	4.63	5.16	5.04	4.91	0.72	5.33	0.59
Japan	0.45	0.39	0.46	0.36	2.11	0.13	3.19	0.59
Germany	3.11	0.41	3.04	0.75	3.79	1.29	4.71	0.94

CURRENCIES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
Dollar	1.6265	-0.0956	1.6297	1.6148	-0.37p	0.6151		
Euro	1.4351	-1.24c	1.4079	1.4079	0.8827	-24.82c	0.8573	
Yen	185.90	-11.26c	185.90	185.90	114.16	¥90.0	113.60	
£ index	100.00	-0.60	103.40	103.40	104.90	0.00	107.30	

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
Brent Oil (\$)	9.78	-0.05	14.45	14.45	115.60	3.00	112.04	Ally
Gold (\$)	287.25	-0.35	300.45	300.45	164.40	2.80	159.92	Feb
Silver (\$)	5.53	-0.01	7.14	7.14	Base Rates	5.50	7.25	ON at 3pm

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
Australia (\$)	2.4468							
Austria (schillings)	19.28							
Belgium (francs)	56.68							
Canada (\$)	2.3775							
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8117							
Denmark (kroner)	10.49							
Finland (markka)	9.3658							
France (francs)	9.2106							
Germany (marks)	2.7559							
Greece (drachma)	452.34							
Hong Kong (\$)	12.26							
Ireland (pounds)	1.1033							
India (rupees)	62.23							
Israel (shekels)	6.1492							
Italy (lira)	2729							
Japan (yen)	184.36							
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9460							
Morocco (dirhams)	0.6090							

Way left clear for TRW to take Lucas Varity

LUCAS VARITY, the car-parts and aerospace group, last night looked set to fall to a £4bn takeover by the US engineer TRW after its rival Federal-Mogul surprised the City and pulled out of the race for the UK company.

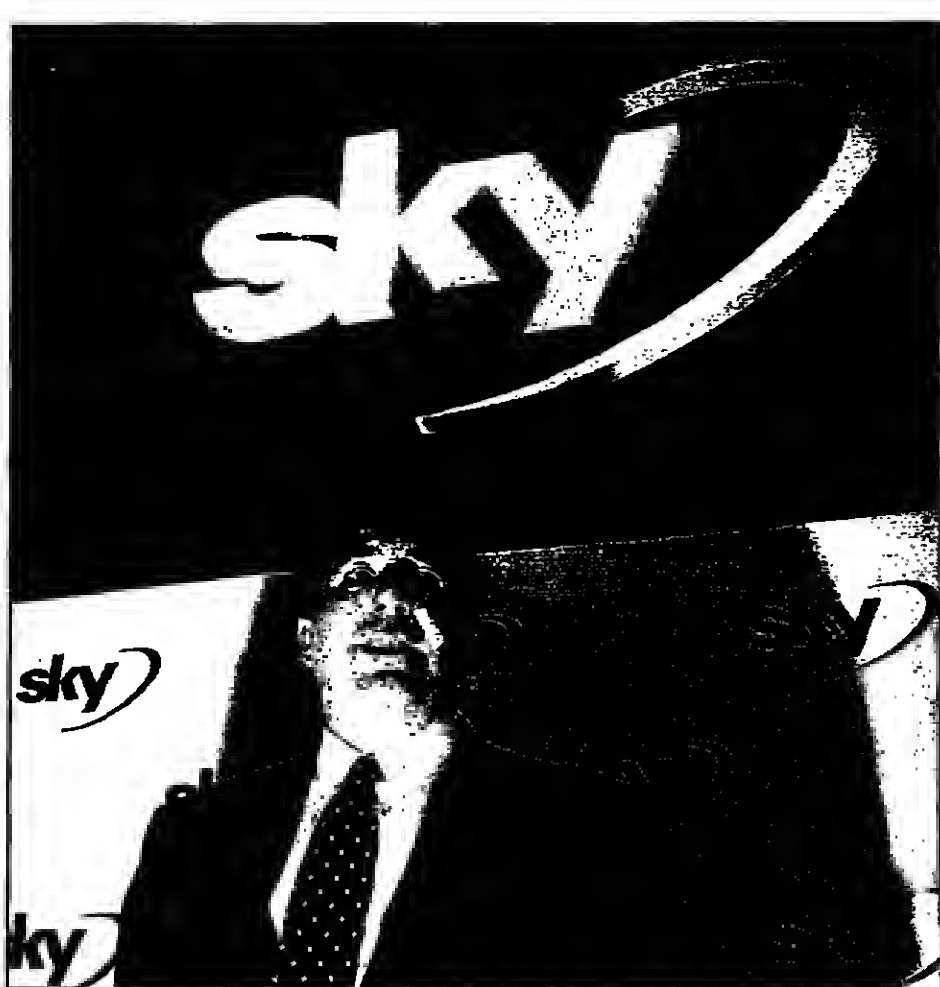
Federal-Mogul, one of the world's largest car-parts makers, indicated it would not increase its informal £3.6bn cash and

comment further but analysts said that Federal-Mogul did not have the firepower to match TRW's all-cash agreed bid. They said that the company's overstretched balance sheet had probably deterred the company's Wall Street backers from backing the takeover.

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Mark Booth, BSKyB chief executive, outlines new targets yesterday Peter Macdonald

BSkyB shares jump 15% as Sky Digital proves a success

SHARES in British Sky Broadcasting jumped by almost 15 per cent yesterday as the satellite broadcaster unveiled strong initial demand for its new digital satellite service and set a revised target of signing 1m digital subscribers within a year of its launch.

The subscriber figures and enthusiasm about the prospects for Open, BSKyB's interactive television joint venture, overshadowed a more than 50 per cent drop in the group's pre-tax profits for the six months to December.

In the four months since it was launched at the beginning of October, Sky Digital, the broadcaster's 140-channel service, signed up 350,000 subscribers. Of these 120,000 were entirely new customers to BSKyB.

BSkyB further impressed analysts with the news that 96 per cent of digital subscribers had opted for the "family basic" package of channels, rather than choosing a cheaper package containing less channels.

Mark Booth, BSKyB's chief executive, said the company was now aiming for 1m digital subscribers by October. "It should speak volumes about our confidence in the position of the company," he said.

BSkyB shares closed up 60.5p at 474.5p, reversing a slide over the past few weeks. Investors' enthusiasm for Sky Digital also translated into renewed fears that its rival ONdigital, the joint venture between Carlton and Granada, the ITV group, was struggling.

Psion warns that downturn in modem sales will hit profits

PSION, the handheld computer maker, yesterday issued a blow to shareholders when it warned that Dacom, its data-communications division, had suffered a sudden downturn that was likely to hit profits this year.

The warning wiped 12 per cent off Psion's shares, puncturing the euphoria surrounding Symbian, its software joint venture with Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola, that has propelled its shares to new highs in recent months.

Psion said manufacturers of portable notebook computers had started installing "embedded" modems - communica-

tions devices that are built into the computer's circuitry - earlier than expected. The move would "severely affect" sales of Dacom's plug-in card modems, which have enjoyed strong growth in demand in recent years. Psion shares closed at 82.5p, down 11.5p.

"We saw it coming, but it happened faster than we predicted," a Psion spokesman said. In the six months to last June, Psion sold over 300,000 card modems, more than double the amount it sold in the same period of 1997. The company said it had been

developing new products to offset the predicted fall in demand for card modems, but that these would not contribute to profits until the second half of the year. Dacom is concentrating on producing PC cards which are capable of connecting portable computers to mobile phone networks or of delivering data over high-speed telephone lines.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

A VOLATILE session left Footsie just 9.7 points lower at 5770.2. At one time it was down 82.2. Supporting shares also lost ground. An already nervous market was weighed down by anxiety over New York, where weakness in Internet stocks filtered through to shares which had surged on the Internet buying spree.

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were mixed, with gains in hi-tech shares offset by a decline in Philip Morris, the tobacco giant which lost a key legal case yesterday.

TOKYO

JAPANESE STOCKS edged higher in cautious trade in Tokyo, with the Nikkei index closing up 49.74 points at 13,952.40. Nikkei March futures finished 100 points higher at 13,960.

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN shares were trading modestly lower yesterday afternoon, with markets unmoved by federal government plans to help a rebel state with debt repayments.

FRANKFURT

SHARES FELL for the third successive day, amid deepening gloom about the German economy. The electronic Xetra Dax closed down 36.63 points, or 0.76 per cent, at 4,814.04 points. The floor Dax fell 2.2 per cent to 4,796.82.

OTHER MARKETS

Federal trade statistics revealed that German exports were 2.7 per cent lower in December 1998 than December 1997, prompting renewed calls for further European interest rate cuts. Traders said the bottom of the stock market looked near, and predicted that the Dax would touch 5,000 in the coming days.

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SELF-DRIVE AND

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Bank may be getting it right after all

MERVYN KING, the Bank of England's Deputy Governor, gave his usual virtuoso performance at the quarterly Inflation Report briefing. Any reasonable person looking at the evidence, he argued, should not have been surprised by the Monetary Policy Committee's interest rate decisions. And indeed, Mr King made it seem very logical - with world growth even weaker and inflation incredibly subdued, why was anybody caught on the hop by last week's half-point cut?

Asked whether the steep drop in interest rates since October was not evidence that the Bank had earlier made a mistake in raising them too high and leaving them at that level for too long, Mr King pointed to the run of bad news about growth and good news about inflation since then. Perhaps other people felt they had been more far-sighted, he said, but the MPC had reacted to actual events.

It was a fair enough gibe. It is easy for pundits and pointy heads to have strong views about what the MPC ought to be doing, but many have made far bigger mistakes about what was happening in the economy. Their errors, unlike any the committee might



OUTLOOK

make, can be quietly buried in the archives. What Mr King glossed over, however, was the fact that the MPC clearly has changed its mind quite radically about the degree of inflationary pressure in the economy. In particular, the wage inflation it thought was in the pipeline does not exist. The Bank's inflation forecast, for any given interest rate or growth rate, is lower than it was.

Whether or not this counts as a mistake, the financial markets were only too pleased to react to the forecast by pencilling in still lower interest rates. This is because many analysts in the City in their hearts believe the Bank is following a growth target rather than an inflation target - or if not, that it ought to be. They work backwards from the Bank's growth forecast, showing the economy pulling back from the brink of recession in the next few months if interest rates are unchanged, to the conclusion that rates therefore ought to be cut.

This would close some of the gap between the Bank's gloomier economic outlook and the relatively optimistic forecast that is the legacy of the Treasury's Pre-Budget Report. If rates fall to 5 per cent or lower, growth will be a bit better, though perhaps not as high as Gordon Brown hoped in November. The Chancellor, like the City, is depending on the MPC to cut interest rates again.

Yesterday's Inflation Report, stressing the downside risks to growth and inflation, certainly encouraged its readers to hope so. And, as Mr King said, the Bank has shown it will do what is needed to keep inflation from falling too low as well as climbing too high.

Whether interest rates drop to 5 per cent, or 4.5 per cent, or stay unchanged, it is important to keep the broader economic picture in mind. Inflation is low and is expected to stay low, while the economic downturn is

sure to be the mildest since the 1960s. No doubt it could have been even better, but whatever the MPC's tactical mistakes, it is hard to fault the strategic results.

Pension victory?

THE "VICTORY" that the National Grid won in the Court of Appeal yesterday may prove a pyrrhic one, not just for pensioners of the electricity industry but for employees right across the land. Dave Laws and Reg Mayes have fought an heroic battle against the Grid for the last six years in an attempt to prove that it misused the surplus in its pension fund when it spent £46m of the money to finance redundancy payments at the time of privatisation.

Since this was a test case, up to 200,000 pensioners of the electricity industry who are members of the same fund and suffered similar losses stood to benefit to the tune of £1.5bn.

There is a point of principle here. The Grid has argued consistently that since employers are required to make up the deficit in final salary pension schemes, they should also be entitled to any surplus that arises.

This, however, ignores the principle that pensions are a form of deferred pay, not a pot of gold to be raided by employers. The Grid also argued that its treatment of the pension surplus was equitable since it shared out the surplus between the company and the members in the same ratio as each had contributed - two to one. This ignores the fact that the bulk of the surplus was accumulated while the electricity industry was in public ownership.

While the legal battle has raged and the lawyers' meter has been running, some of those pensioners who might otherwise have been enjoying enhanced benefits have died. By the time the Grid has appealed to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal ruling, another two years will have expired, along with yet more pensioners.

In simple headline terms, the three judges yesterday upheld the appeal of Mr Laws and Mr Mayes against an earlier High Court ruling that the Grid had been within its rights. But the idea that the ruling will open the floodgates is almost certainly fanciful. For the Appeal Court also ruled that surpluses in pension funds do not belong to their members and that it would be "grotesque" for

the Grid to now make additional payments into a fund that continues to be in substantial surplus.

Moreover, the Appeal Court accepted the argument that employers are entitled to take account of their own interests when deciding what to do with pension surpluses. In effect, the Grid was found guilty of a technical breach of pension fund rules by having failed to make the appropriate amendment to its scheme before it took its share of the surplus.

The Grid has now been advised that the maximum it will have to pay into the fund is £10m. National Power, which took £250m from the surplus and fought a parallel case against its pensioners, reckons it may not have to make any payments into the fund at all.

Even if higher payments do have to be made, that may not mean increased benefits for members. The employers may simply use those payments as credits against future contributions.

So a great battle over principle may in the end yield very little for the pensioners in practice. And yet the publicity generated by this cause celebre may persuade more and more companies to abandon final salary schemes, which are expensive

to fund, and move to money purchase schemes, which are cheaper, and less attractive to employees. In that case Mr Laws and Mr Mayes will have won a victory but at the expense of millions more losers.

Vaux scandal

NO APOLOGY is offered for returning for the second successive day to extraordinary goings on at Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer. From a City perspective, the whole thing stinks.

Sir Paul Nicolson, chairman of Vaux, is an honourable man, and he no doubt believes he is doing the right thing by his company, his employees and the local Sunderland community. He no doubt also believes all correct corporate governance procedures have been followed in preparing to sell the group's two breweries and some of its pubs to his brother. But when the non executives who decide these things are led by the chairman's brother in law, Stephen Gibbs, and the independence of much of the rest of the board is of questionable status, you have to wonder how much the letter of corporate governance law really matters.

£11bn electricity merger talks called off

TAKEOVER FEVER returned to the electricity sector yesterday after National Power and United Utilities, the owner of Norweb and North West Water, disclosed that they had called off talks on an £11bn merger at the eleventh hour.

By MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, is understood to have approached his opposite number at United Utilities, Derek Green, with a merger proposal just before Christmas. Subsequent talks reached an advanced stage.

National Power, which is valued at £6.3bn, would have been the dominant partner in the merged company with 60 per cent of the shares. At last night's closing price of 812p, up 9p, United Utilities is valued at £4.7bn.

There is said to have been no dispute over management roles in the combined company. But it appears that United Utilities

felt that a no-premium merger would have short-changed its shareholders.

United Utilities said that, as part of a broad review of strategy, it had held discussions with National Power about the potential benefits of a merger. These had reached a "detailed stage" before Monday night's termination of talks.

By contrast, National Power's statement referred merely to "conversations" that had been held with United about a possible merger.

City observers said the tone of the two statements suggested that United was the keener of the two to flush out a bidder, even though the initial approach came from National Power.

The rival generator, PowerGen, has already merged with East Midlands Electricity and has made no secret of its interest in buying a second regional electricity company if permitted.

National Power meanwhile has taken over the supply arm of Midlands Electricity.

Both generators are in the process of selling off coal-fired power stations in return for being allowed to expand into electricity distribution and supply. National Power expects to raise £2bn from the sale of its Drax station in Yorkshire while PowerGen expects to net £1.5bn from the sale of its Ferrybridge and Fiddler's Ferry stations.

Outlook, this page



Keith Henry: Thought to have made first approach

MEPs reject plea to exempt eurobonds from new tax

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday suffered a fresh blow over the controversial European withholding tax, when a bid to exempt eurobonds from the proposed legislation was rejected by MEPs.

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

on all savings, is Luxembourg. After the vote Alan Donnelly, leader of the Labour MEPs, released a letter to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, arguing that the draft directive is "biased and against the interests of employment in Europe's financial services industry".

He added: "Unilateral EU-level action, as required by the withholding tax directive, runs the genuine risk of creating an outflow of capital to third countries such as Switzerland."

He warned that there were already clear indications of

Swiss preparations for any new opportunities arising from the withholding tax.

Bryan Cassidy, Conservative economics spokesman at Strasbourg, said the proposals "could lead to thousands of job losses in the City if the eurobond market is forced to close due to misguided Euro-rules".

A motion approving the European Commission's proposals went through by 386 votes to 106, despite the opposition of most Labour MEPs.

Germany has already highlighted the importance it attaches to the measure, which, it argues, will help eliminate unfair tax competition.

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A bit of a slowdown, then back to normal? It won't be that easy

THE LATEST Inflation Report from the Bank of England raises the question whether we need a separate report about inflation, or whether it should be reincorporated into the Bank's main Quarterly Bulletin. Instead, maybe there should be a new Recession Report.

More about the recession threat in a moment. First, have a look at the top graph, showing producer price inflation through the 1990s in the UK, the G7 minus the UK, and the euro area. Back in the early 1990s Britain had a significant inflation problem. In absolute terms inflation was not at all high by comparison with the levels of the 1970s or early 1980s, but it was high by comparison with the other large developed countries. Since then, and most dramatically in the last year, inflation has plunged. But it has not only plunged. It has harmonised. The price at which companies can sell their goods is sharply negative everywhere.

Inflation on the conventional measure of the retail price index does continue in the UK: the middle part of the Bank projections put it at 2.5 per cent. But that is partly the result of the way we calculate our RPI. If we were to use the standard method of calculation of the EU it would be half that, and even that method does not allow for quality increases, or the fact that people change their habits, shopping around for discounted deals.

Where there is inflation is in asset prices: house prices still seem to be climbing, particularly in London and the South-east, and share and (particularly) bond prices are higher than they were a year ago. Asset price inflation does not enter into the normal considerations of central bankers: they worry about it, to be sure, but it is not in their official target ranges.

THIS LEADS to a really big question which will, I suggest, preoccupy people in the next decade. Why is there asset price inflation in a world where there is no inflation, or virtually none, in goods and services? Monetarists would say that it is because too much money is being printed. You do not need to believe that there is a direct mechanistic relationship between the supply of money and the supply of goods and services to accept that there ought to be some sort of relationship between the two. Through the 1980s, real money supply (the broad M4 measure) was consistently higher than the growth of GDP, as the lower graph shows. So except in the early 1980s and early 1990s squeezes, monetary policy accommodated some rise in prices.

But now there is little or no rise in prices and money supply is still growing faster than the economy as a whole. Talk to anyone involved in financial markets and the word that keeps cropping up is "liquidity" - there is a lot of money chasing a limited supply of securities. So share prices have stayed high and bond prices have soared away.

You could even say that,



HAMISH MCRAE

It is possible that we will go back to trend growth after the millennium... but the risks remain on the downside

while there was current inflation, rising prices of goods and services were available to absorb excess monetary growth. Now the money is not mopped up in that way and goes into holding up share prices. This by no means only a British phenomenon. In fact the excess liquidity argument is even stronger in the US. Share prices are at a 40-year high relative to company earnings. Asset prices cannot go up relative to current prices for ever, any more than house prices can rise faster than earnings. At some stage a new equilibrium has to be reached: there is either a plateau - or maybe a slump.

This brings us to the new Bank forecasts for the UK

(The main bit that does not fit the employment figures, which have been strong, but this may be the result of lags.) Talking to business people with activities right across the country, I catch the impression that there is still very solid demand. Provided the price is right, people will still buy. Volumes, in general, are fine. The problem is getting the price to a level where people feel they are getting good value. As the year moves on, demand will be further stoked by the millennium: the negative aspects of the millennium bug, which costs money to fix, and the more positive "party-time" spending expected in the second half.

AND THEN WHAT? Back to trend growth? Well, it is certainly

it is dealing with a problem that, unlike current inflation, still exists: the threat of global recession. No, it is not saying that this will happen, but its commentary on events since the publication of the last edition, in November, has a consistently cautious tone.

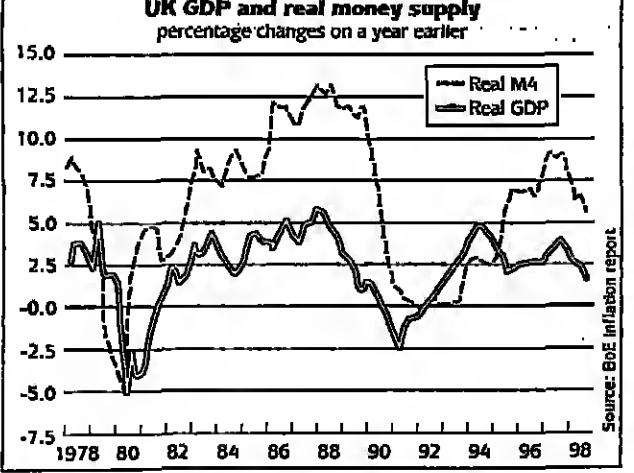
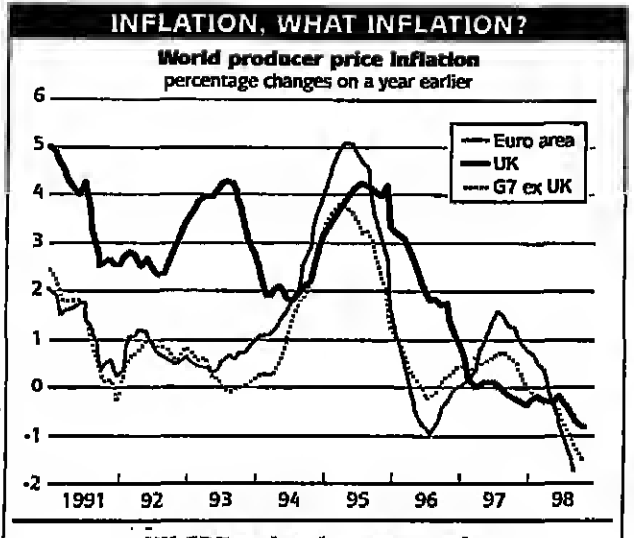
Japan is still in the deepest recession since 1955, when GDP data was first collected. The US had very strong growth in the final quarter of last year, but the headline figures masked a slowdown in final demand, and manufacturing weakened sharply in the second half of last year. The euro zone had a good third quarter and consumer confidence has remained high, but business sentiment has weakened. Growth forecasts for Germany and France are being shaded down. And outside of the developed world, uncertainties remain in Brazil and China.

ASK THIS QUESTION: what will be the booming economies of the year 2000? The US? Not if it has to pull the whole of the world economy along with it, and certainly not if the long-awaited market correction takes place. The euro zone? It may do all right, but it needs to do better. Japan? Well, maybe there will be some sort of recovery, but it can hardly be a vigorous one. The rest of east Asia? Yes, there may be some recovery at last, but it will at best be patchy. The rest of the world? There will be pockets of decent growth - outer Europe may well be one - but these will not be large enough to act as engines for the world.

To say all this is not to forecast a global recession. But it is to acknowledge that the risks for the world economy remain on the downside. The IMF published a special interim assessment of the world economy at the end of last year, in which it pointed out that the industrial production of the world economy is now growing more slowly than at any time since the beginning of the 1990s.

The pattern of growth is differently distributed, for then the US, Canada and western Europe were in actual recession, while Asia was growing at more than 5 per cent a year. By the end of last year there were patchy signs of recovery in Asia, but looked at in aggregate, the rest of the world was only inching forward. Estimates for world trade growth this year are being correspondingly downgraded. Sure, the services sector continues to run more strongly than the industrial one, and that may keep the world out of absolute recession. But the margin between a slowly growing world economy and one that is not growing at all is quite fine.

Maybe we do not yet need a Recession Report, after all. The balance of probability is that there will be some sort of global growth through next year, even if it is pretty muted. But the idea that there is a bit of a slowdown then everything returns to trend and we can all relax is too easy. I remain more concerned about next year than about this one.



economy. It expects a pause in the first half of the year, a recovery in the second, and a resumption of trend growth next year. This is more or less what the market expects, and presumably what the Treasury will also forecast when it brings out its new numbers at the time of the Budget, now less than four weeks away.

It is very hard to disagree when there is such a high degree of consensus about something, particularly since most of the factual evidence seems to support the conventional view.

possible. It may transpire that the majority is right after all, and it is a plausible notion that the pause in UK growth this year will have allowed some modest rebalancing of the economy so that it can resume trend growth after a longish period of out-performance. But is not a period of below-trend growth really just as likely?

Because of the separate publication of the Inflation Report people no longer pay much attention to the parent publication, the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin. This is a pity because

US trade clash looms

THE PROSPECT of a new transatlantic trade clash loomed last night as the EU moved to extend a ban on hormone-treated beef until the completion of safety tests, expected at the end of the year, writes Stephen Castle in Brussels.

The decision means Europe will continue with restrictions beyond 13 May, the deadline set a year ago by the World Trade Organisation, for them to be lifted. The decision comes as Brussels and Washington are locked in battle over the EU's banana import regime, and amid fears that a third dispute will erupt over genetically-modified foods.

Yesterday the European Commission set out three possible courses of action to cover the period between 13 May and the end of the year, by which time the safety tests should be completed. The Commission will consult ministers of the 15 EU states and the European Parliament before settling on a course of action.

Just another rail commuter

JOHN O'BRIEN'S job as franchising director of Britain's rail network is being replaced by the new post of chief executive of the shadow Strategic Rail Authority.

John Prescott, the Minister for Transport, Environment and the Regions, has let it be known that he wants "new faces" to regulate the deeply unpopular privatised railways.

Asked yesterday whether he was applying for the new title, Mr O'Brien acidly replied: "It would have been embarrassing if I had applied because I would have been a good candidate for the job. But if they wanted me to do the job they would have approached me."

For good measure, the spurned Mr O'Brien added: "It would have been churlish to have applied for the one job where the Deputy Prime Minister said he wanted to see a change."

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Mr O'Brien awarded the company that operates his service, Silverlink, (on a scale of A to E) the lowest mark of E.

Casual Brits

AMERICANS LOVE "dress down Friday" but many of their British colleagues are dressing down all the time, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

"One employee in two - equivalent to 13.5 million workers - is no longer required to wear a suit and tie," according to research commissioned by a DTI body, Inside UK Enterprise.

"Three in five bosses now help employees to combat work-related stress, offering benefits ranging from rest and relaxation rooms to free massage sessions," it says.

Grab Berlitz

THE MERGER between Société Générale and Paribas has got London-based employees of the two French banks sweating about a possible 500 job cuts in the City.

Weight watching

MEDEVA THOUGHT it was onto a winner when it developed the anti-obesity drug lorcaserin. Sales of the slimming pill took off in the US, but then slumped when worries about side-effects appeared. Yesterday Medeva admitted there was "no recovery in sight" to the drug's sales.

Not to worry. Medeva has just opened its doors in the US to Weight Watchers, who are advising staff across the company on how to lose weight. Without using pills.

No doubt to take their minds off such matters, Medeva's chief executive Bill Bogle, and three of his Medeva colleagues, including Garry Watts, finance director, bought a racehorse a couple of years ago.

FT promotions

CONGRATULATIONS to Philip Stephens, who has been promoted from political columnist at the Financial Times to become the pink 'uns' UK editor.

The previous incumbent, deputy editor Andrew Gowers, has gone to Hamburg to head up the FT's new drive into Germany.

This ambitious idea involves hiring around 100 journalists to produce a completely new

London garage

THE LUCKY directors of South African Breweries are each being given a £100,000 London housing allowance in the run up to their listing on the London Stock Exchange next month.

Graham Mackay, chief executive of the world's fourth largest brewer, says that "the price of a four-bedroom house with an acre of land in South Africa would get you a garage in London".

I will keep a sharp eye out for Mr Mackay or any of his fellow directors selling the Big Issue outside Waterloo Station.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk



Sir Paul Nicholson (left), Vaux chairman since 1976, faces losing control of the family business. His brother Frank has offered to buy the brewery for an estimated £80m, but critics say this is an under-valuation

Vaux dream turns into a nightmare

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

FOR SIR Paul Nicholson, chairman of the Sunderland-based brewer Vaux Group, the last few days have degenerated into a waking nightmare as everything he has worked for threatens to crumble into dust. It was bad enough late last year when he put up for sale the group's Sunderland brewery, a huge facade that dominates the centre of the city.

This was a difficult decision for Sir Paul, a pillar of the North-east establishment whose list of interests reads like a roll-call of Wearside's top committees and development projects. The brewery employs 600 workers, sponsors the local football club and has been in the Nicholson family for generations.

But in the name of shareholder value, he agreed to it. Imagine his relief, then, when a saviour emerged in the form of his brother Frank, another pillar of the North-east establishment who sits on the Vaux board and runs the brewing operations. He offered to buy the business for an estimated £80m and was later given four weeks of exclusive negotiating rights.

It was a resolution made in heaven. Not only would it save the brewery and the jobs but it would protect the family's reputation. Sir Paul, a somewhat crusty old Harrovian with the slow rounded vowels of the upper classes, would be able to continue wearing with pride his uniform of Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham.

Now the Grand Design is in tatters. And again, the spectre of shareholder value looms large. The "blame" is being heaped on Vaux's chief executive and finance director, who lobbied a grenade into the Nicholson camp when they said that more value could be realised by razing the Sunderland brewery to the ground and flogging the land for redevelopment while contracting out the brewing of Vaux brands to another operator.

The two rebel directors, Martin Grant and Neil Gossage, were spectacularly sacked after lobbying shareholders behind

News Analysis: A rescue plan for the Sunderland brewery has become the casualty in a battle between shareholder value and local pride

the board's back after losing the vote on the issue.

The Vaux issue is a straight conflict between a family business trying to do the right thing by the local community and its reputation, and the cold-eyed logic of corporate governance and shareholder value.

The Nicholson's actions are understandable and Sir Paul apparently excluded himself from the vote on the decision to grant his brother exclusive negotiating rights due to his obvious conflict of interests.

But a look at some figures and the composition of the Vaux board raises serious questions. One view is that the company

membered, Sir Paul faces a further horror. Rudderless, defenceless and with a powerful array of institutional shareholders who must wonder what is going on, Vaux finds itself an easy target for takeover.

And Sir Paul, like Rocco Forte before him, faces the grim prospect of being remembered as the man who lost control of the family business after more than 120 years.

As one local expert put it: "If that happens the Nicholson's would have lost everything they have worked for." Another says: "Sir Paul is saddened by what has happened but he is holding up the flag of shareholder value."

One North-eastern hus-

ket by 32 per cent. That figure worsens to 63 per cent over the last 10 years. Profits last year were half the level of 1994. Diversifications have performed poorly. Vaux went into nursing homes but later sold them. Its beer brands are popular locally but have little following outside the North-east. The main success has been the creation of the Swallow chain of hotels.

The catalyst came last year when the company received takeover approaches that were thought to have come from Stakis, the hotels group, and Whitbread.

Sir Paul had been in the process of engineering his retirement from the group, though that may now have to be delayed, given the boardroom fall-out. He was groomed for a life in the establishment. After an education at Harrow and Cambridge he joined the Coldstream Guards and later the Northumberland Hussars. He qualified as a chartered accountant at Price Waterhouse and then joined the family business in 1965 at the age of 27. He has been there ever since.

Though he is credited with a sharp mind, those who know him say he has a rather distant air. "It can take him a while to even acknowledge your existence," one colleague says. And while Vaux built a reputation as a caring, paternal employer, Sir Paul is not considered on friendly terms with the staff.

His brother is different. "Mr Frank" as the staff know him, is popular on the shop floor. Though he has the same Harrow and Cambridge background as his brother and, according to one observer "looks and talks like Derek Nimmo", he has the common touch.

His proposal to buy the brewery has cast him in the role of local hero. But if the corporate shenanigans carry on like this, the whole business may be taken over and broken up before he has the chance to successfully execute his family's repleve.

His salvation, however may be found in timing. Ladbroke's £1.2bn takeover of Stakis earlier this week effectively removes the two most likely predators from the fray.



Rebel directors: Martin Grant, chief executive, (left) and Neil Gossage, finance director, have been sacked

azines
reader

SPORT

FA Cup fifth round: Fulham's trip to Old Trafford brings back painful memories for their most famous follower

The day United silenced Jimmy Hill



IN THE best known of his myriad football incarnations, Jimmy Hill has talked the nation through thousands of goals. But the one he is describing is different. For one thing, it gave Fulham a foothold in the FA Cup final at the expense of Manchester United. For another, he scored it himself.

It is semi-final day at Villa Park, barely seven weeks after the Munich air disaster of 1958, and Fulham stand between Manchester United and an emotional return to Wembley. Before a crowd of nearly 70,000 people, the Second Division side have cancelled out an early goal by the young Bobby Charlton and are about to get their noses, or rather chins, in front.

As Des Lynam might have said, how did you see it, Jim? "Our keeper, Tony Macdonald, threw the ball to Roy Dwight, Elton John's cousin. I saw an opening between the centre-backs and went on a through run. Roy hit a spectacular pass in front of me. It was just a question of getting there first and putting it past Harry Gregg, which I did."

There is no Alan Hansen present to tease Hill about how much the goal owed to "diabolical defending", no Trevor Brooking to puncture his assertion that "I thought I'd scored the winning goal". But while Charlton quickly equalised, only the harshest pundit could have denied Fulham's right to a replay after an injury to Jim Langley effectively left United facing 10 men for the entire second half.

When the sides reconvened at Highbury, Fulham trailed 3-0 but battled back and were only 4-3 down when Johnny Haynes had a "goal" disallowed with five minutes left. "We saw later on Pathe News that it should have stood but, in pushing for the equaliser, we let in a fifth," recalls Hill. "I was terribly disappointed because, as it turned out, it was my one chance to play in a Wembley final."

As underdogs, Hill and his colleagues would have been popular winners in normal circumstances, but in the aftermath of Munich he remembers "the country was rooting for United". However, the roles will be well and truly reversed on Sunday when United and Fulham play it again as Premiership and Second Division leaders respectively in the fifth round at a packed Old Trafford.

BY PHIL SHAW

It is an occasion the London club would probably not have been around to enjoy but for Hill. The latest owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, may have raised their profile and prospects by allowing Kevin Keegan to lavish millions on the team. Yet it was Hill who, by putting together a consortium to rescue them from a merger most foul with Queen's Park Rangers in 1987, preserved Fulham's identity and football at Craven Cottage.

Since Keegan's side earned the tie by beating Aston Villa at the scene of his semi-final goal, their Cup run has inevitably stirred fond memories for Hill. Now 70, his affection for Fulham dates back six decades to when his father and uncle, milkmen both, first took him to a game.

He went back as a trialist at 15 and, in 1932, made a "sentimental" return when Fulham bought him from Brentford weeks before being relegated from the old First Division. First as a wing-half and later at inside-forward - he scored five at

'I went to the public meeting. The club looked as if it would die. People were asking: Will you do this? I could not resist'

Doncaster a week before the United game - Hill was part of the team who restored their status and cemented the image of Fulham as a club bristling with charisma and characters.

There was something about the place itself: the quaintness of the Cottage, nesting in a corner of the ground bordered by a picturesque park; the open terrace parallel to the Thames where the flags of all their rivals fluttered; the absence of floodlights until the early 1960s.

It was matched by a plethora of personalities ranging from the chairman, comedian Tommy Trinder, to players such as Haynes, Bobby Robson, "Tosh" Chamberlain and Hill, who already stood out for his "beatnik" beard and work as chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association.

"The Dean family, who made blinds in Putney, owned the club, and

I can still picture old man Dean coming into the dressing-room wearing a starched winged collar. Tommy [Trinder] didn't put any money in but he kept the club in the news and gave very generously of himself. He used to tell us gags on the coach, which was great for morale."

"The players were an interesting mix. We had grammar-school boys like myself and Haynes and others who were graduates of the university of life. But we shared a sense of fun. I also remember Bill Dodgin rejoining Fulham from Arsenal and saying: 'What a pleasure it is to be back, and to have some intelligent conversation in the changing-room'."

He ended "the happiest days of my footballing life" in 1961 and, having led the union, crossed into management with Coventry. Launching the "Sky Blue revolution" (to which he would return as chairman), he won them a place among the elite which they hold to this day. He then went into television, where he has worked as an executive, presenter and analyst respectively with terrestrial and satellite channels alike.

There have also been ventures into US soccer (unprofitably) and Saudi Arabian football (successfully), while he recently added a fresh string to his crowded bow with an absorbing autobiography "rich in anecdotes. But it was when he was a director of Charlton, where he had answered a friend's plea to bring some football experience to a board full of businessmen, that he came to Fulham's rescue."

"I went to the public meeting in Hammersmith Town Hall. The club looked as if it was going to die. People were asking 'Will you do this?' and I couldn't resist. All my life I've responded to challenges and, because of the wonderfully nostalgic years and the great friendships I formed there, I still felt part of Fulham."

For 10 years, even when he was due back in London for *Match of the Day*, Chairman Hill spent Saturdays watching Fulham in unglamorous settings. Some who shared his devotion argue that something has been lost since the Al Fayed takeover - Keegan was astonished when a fan told him: "We don't want million-pound players here" - but Hill is pleased simply to see his first love "moving forward".

Whether they will ever fulfil their owner's ambition to be "the Manchester United of the South" is another matter. Hill believes their crowd-pulling potential places them in the Southampton/Nottingham Forest bracket. "And if they do reach the Premiership, they can't carry on at Craven Cottage," he warns. "Not only because of the size of the ground, but also because the area, particularly the roads, won't take it."

That is for the future. The present is all about Fulham performing creditably on Sunday and, more importantly in Hill's eyes, promotion back to the game's second tier. "I'll be there in spirit," promises the man Alex Ferguson labelled "a prat" for having the temerity to condemn a cynical lunge by Eric Cantona. "Let's just say it would not displease me at all if they got revenge for our defeat by United."

"The Jimmy Hill Story" (Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99)



Jimmy Hill has held jobs in football on three continents, but remains devoted to his first love, Fulham

Daily Mirror



Jimmy Hill gives Fulham a 2-1 lead at Villa Park in the 1958 FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United

Reuters

Golden Boy's grail is unification Reid aims to take Calzaghe's title

Oscar De La Hoya this weekend starts a series of title fights that could make him the greatest boxer of his era. By Glyn Leach

THIS WEEKEND in Las Vegas, boxing's "Golden Boy", Oscar De La Hoya, embarks on what he has termed "a comeback" - a curious choice of words, perhaps, as the World Boxing Council welterweight champion's absence has hardly been conspicuous.

But having been restricted by injury to only two fights in 1998, the undefeated De La Hoya believes it is necessary for him to defend his championship at least four times this year if he is to establish himself as the greatest fighter of his era. And if things pan out for the welterweight division over the coming months, it could yet be quite some era.

Over the past two years De La Hoya has featured in seven title fights, earning a total of \$58m (£36.7m). And on Saturday night at the cavernous Thomas & Mack Center in the Nevada Desert's neon gambling oasis, De La Hoya will collect a further \$10m for facing his toughest opponent to date, like "Bazooka" Quarry, an unbeaten Ghanaian who until recently held the World Boxing Association title in the 10st 7lb weight class.

But while De La Hoya is unchallenged as the biggest non-heavyweight draw in boxing, his superiority within the welterweight ranks is as yet unproven. Quarry aside, the hard-hitting and unde-

feated International Boxing Federation champion, Felix Trinidad, has a very real claim to welterweight supremacy, while the power of the unsung James Page, Quarry's successor as WBA champion after the African was stripped of the title last year, makes him the dangerous dark horse of the division. And then there is the veteran former titleholder Pernell Whitaker, whose loss by decision to De La Hoya in April 1997 was questioned in many corners.

Without doubt, the welterweight class is the most competitive in contemporary world boxing. It has been compared with the middleweight division of the early-to-mid 1980s, when Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran helped a soporific, pre-Tyson heavyweight scene skulk out of the spotlight. Where that esteemed quartet featured in a series of 10 spirited and skilled battles against each other, today's welterweights - the De La Hoya-Whitaker bout aside - have so far been steered well clear of each other by cautious managers and promoters.

There has, however, been a sea change in world boxing, prompted

by a policy review at Home Box Office, America's premier pay-per-view network, towards the end of last year. Known as the "cash-to-burn" network, HBO became tired of not receiving value for its money and let it be known that, in future, HBO fighters would either have to take competitive bouts, for which they would continue to be handsomely remunerated, or ship out.



De La Hoya: Competitive class

Immediately, a series of exciting match-ups were made - the most notable being the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield heavyweight unification match set for 13 March in New York - and HBO's chief rival, the Don King-affiliated Showtime network, was forced to follow suit. With King currently doing business with HBO for the first time in years, the cross-television divide that had reduced world boxing to a non-competitive farce appears to have come to an end, if only temporarily.

"Boxing has a perpetual cold; it's never in perfect health," said the HBO chief, Seth Abraham. "But right now people are talking about it and writing about it. It's '99 going to be a busy year? We hope so."

The strength of the new cordiality will be tested by the outcome and aftermath of WBC and IBF welterweight title bouts over the next two weekends. De La Hoya-Quarry sees two HBO fighters locking horns, but the following weekend in New York, King enters the mix when Trinidad - promoted by King and contracted to Showtime - defends his IBF belt against HBO's Whitaker.

Yet De La Hoya's promoter, Bob

Arum, is confident that welterweight unification can be achieved. "Personally, I'd prefer that Whitaker wins the fight; if it's Trinidad, you have to deal with Don King," he said. "But either way, Felix and Pernell can be made with Oscar."

Unbeaten in 35 fights (one draw, 29 wins-by-knockout), the 28-year-old Quarry is a live wire challenger for De La Hoya, who will be boxing 11 days after his 25th birthday. But the African, who was stripped of the WBA title for refusing to make a mandatory defence, is somewhat mechanical and De La Hoya has the technical skills to dismantle him for the 30th win of his career (currently featuring 23 stoppages) - providing that the Golden Boy does not decide to try and prove his toughness by engaging the savage left-hooker in a punch-out.

Regardless of whoever emerges as champion, what is important to the sport's future is that the winner of the WBC fight meets whoever the IBF champion might transpire to be (and Trinidad is favoured to retain at Madison Square Garden due to Whitaker's long absence through drug rehabilitation) before the end of the year in order to keep the new-found momentum building. And by so doing, the welterweights could establish themselves as boxing's flagship division.

Reid aims to take Calzaghe's title

ROBIN REID has warned Joe Calzaghe to stay focused on the present and let the future take care of itself - or risk losing his world super-middleweight title.

The Manchester fighter, who faces the Welsh World Boxing Organisation champion at Newcastle Arena on Saturday night, is refusing to look any further ahead than this weekend as he attempts to relieve Calzaghe of his crown. However, Reid feels that Calzaghe is treating victory as a foregone conclusion and thinking ahead prematurely to possible unification deals involving Steve Collins and Roy Jones Jr.

"It honestly doesn't bother me. I don't need that sort of stuff to get me going," said Reid, who lost his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title in a surprise defeat by South Africa's Sugar Boy Malinga in December 1997. "I've been the underdog before; I've been written off before - and I prefer that, to be honest. The pressure is off me. The pressure is on Joe. He's talking about doing me in three rounds or whatever round he's on now; I can't remember."

"He's looking towards his next fight and he hasn't even got this one out of the way yet. I'm relaxed. I've trained hard and I'm mentally and

BY DAMIAN SPELLMAN

physically prepared. I know I'm going to perform and I'm going to win."

Reid's trainer, Brian Hughes, is confident his man can do a job and dismissed a local newspaper report which polled 12 experts who unanimously tipped Calzaghe.

"All 12 are wrong, and we'll find out on Saturday night," Hughes said. "I've never seen Robin so motivated for a contest as he is for this one. They're definitely wrong. I can assure you."

As well as his boxing, Reid has made something of a name for himself as a model, but he is determined that the sideline will not get in the way of the main business.

"My main priority is my boxing," he said. "I've been boxing since I was eight. I was an England international at 17 or 18 and went to the Olympics. I've always been a boxer, and that's always been the main priority."

"Some people knock it and say he's too involved in his modelling, but that's not true. A lot of people's perceptions of boxers is the flat nose, cauliflower ears and not being able to string a sentence together. But do a bit of modelling and it proves we're not all like that."

Florimo signals change of style

Henry Paul has been replaced at Wigan by a No 6 more in tune with his rugby league team-mates.

By Dave Hadfield

IT IS refreshing evidence of the continuing diversity of rugby league that Wigan's No 6 shirt this season will be worn by a player so different in style from his predecessor.

Greg Florimo, who makes his competitive debut for his new club in the most demanding of circumstances in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at Leeds on Sunday, brings a wide range of qualities to the crucial role of stand-off. But he is not and never will be a Henry Paul, any more than Henry Paul is a Greg Florimo.

"Henry and I play very different styles," Florimo said. "Although I might lack some of his ability to add lb, I'd like to think I bring some other strengths."

"I'm pretty direct. I like to take defences on and, apart from my running game, I think I can be a pretty good link man for the players outside me."

Or, as his new coach, John Monie, puts it: "We might lose a bit of the unpredictability that we had with Henry. The players around him will know more of what to expect from Greg."

At 31, Florimo is something close to the ultimate, hard-boiled Australian professional. That is why, when it came right down to making decisions on this year's budget, Monie preferred to have him on board, rather than the unorthodox Paul, who has signed instead for the Bradford Bulls.

The Wigan captain, Andy Farrell, has noticed the difference as well. In the couple of weeks since Florimo arrived, they have worked together on game plans and team structures, the sort of stuff that the mercurial New Zealander did not overly concern himself with that much.

The jury will be out for some time on whether the change will make Wigan a harder team to play against. But, starting with Sunday's showdown at Head-



Greg Florimo arrives at Central Park after 12 years of Australian league - "I'm expecting to learn as much from the [Wigan] players as they learn from me" Ben Duffy

ingley, they will certainly be different. It will be different for Florimo as well. After 12 years with North Sydney, he is starting a new career with only his second professional club.

"It felt a bit odd to be putting on a different shirt," he said after his first outing with Wigan, in the friendly at Halifax last week. "But it appeals to me fantastically to be going from that into a game like the one against Leeds."

"The Challenge Cup is probably still the premier competition here, so I couldn't have a better start. It's obviously a dif-

ficult tie, but if we can win it we'll really think that we can go all the way to Wembley."

The prospects of them doing that, despite the challenge of a side that came so close to matching them last season, depend to a large extent on Florimo and another Norths player he has been partly responsible for bringing to the club.

Mark Reber, who flew in this week after finally sorting out his immigration paperwork, was a team-mate in Australia and Florimo warmly recommended him to Wigan when they were

looking for the right player to complete this year's squad.

"John talked to me about needing another player and asked me how Mark went. I told him that he's a great player, with excellent speed and great hands."

Reber's arrival will also ease Florimo's transition, although playing in England has been on his agenda since touring here and winning two of his four Test caps in 1994.

Like many Australians, the noise and atmosphere created by British crowds made an immediate impression on him, so going into a game like Sun-

day's is a rapid introduction to what he came here for.

And there is also a powerful Norths connection at work, with the Leeds coach, Graham Murray, due to take over at Florimo's old club next season.

"When you look at what he's done at Leeds, where he's lifted them from what had been a few flat years, then he's obviously got the credentials."

North Sydney, however, is history now for Florimo, whose credentials in a role filled in recent years at Wigan by the likes of Brett Kenny, Shaun Edwards and Franco Botica comes

under serious scrutiny for the first time this weekend.

He warns the supporters not to expect too much, too soon. "Although I've played a lot of first grade in Sydney, I'm not coming here with the attitude that I know everything. Even at the tender age of 31, I'm expecting to learn as much from the players here as they learn from me."

The quality of those players around him has already impressed Florimo. "I can't get over Jason Robinson. His athleticism and power and ability to take defences apart are something really special."

"I don't think he is the only player here who would get into an Australian side. Andy Farrell and Gary Connolly are in that category as well."

"Playing with players like that makes it a lot easier for me to settle in."

Monie, for one, has always predicted that those players would greatly enjoy playing with Greg Florimo.

His ability to add an extra dimension to the side will rarely be tested more acutely than this Sunday against Leeds, but Florimo is ready to show what he can contribute.

Hanley calls on young centres

By Dave Hadfield

THE ST HELENS coach, Ellery Hanley, deprived of perhaps the most powerful centre pairing in the game, will put his faith in two virtually untried young players in his first competitive match in charge on Sunday.

Saints will not only be without their new signing, Kevin Iro, with an ankle injury but are also almost certain to have to manage without Paul Newlove, who has strained a hamstring, in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at Hunslet.

That means a full debut for 18-year-old Paul Wellens, alongside Anthony Stewart, just a year older and with only a handful of first-team games on the wing behind him.

Hanley, however, has complete confidence in the youngster players, both of them Great Britain Academy internationals, he has had to call up.

"Wellens has so much ability that he can play in just about any position in the backs," he said. "He is so confident and his attitude is excellent."

The match also marks the competitive debuts of Saints' close season signings, Sonny Nickle, Pereti Tuilagi and Phil Adamson, the latter two on the bench.

Saints have signed the Oldham prop Michael Edwards. Edwards joins his home town club on a free transfer.

The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, is delaying a decision on who will play hooker for him in the tie of the round, against Wigan. Lee Jackson and Terry Newton, who have both played for Great Britain in the position, are both fit and in the 17-man squad, but Murray has yet to finalise who will start in the role on Sunday.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, is to take charge of the Student Rugby League Varsity Match at Richmond on 9 March. "Russell took some persuading, because he didn't want to take someone else's appointment," said the Student Rugby League's director, Neil Wood. "But we convinced him that he would only help the profile of the game."

Yates fears another long ban after citing by Wasps

THE MAN from Medicine Hat is finding it impossible to escape the poison.

Kevin Yates, the international prop from Bath who was notoriously found guilty of biting an opponent's ear last season, has been cited by the Wasps management for alleged head-stamping during Sunday's Premiership match at Loftus Road. The irony was almost too bitter for words: yesterday's announcement came exactly a year after Yates saw an exciting future all but devastated by a six-month ban from the Rugby Football Union's disciplinary tribunal.

He must now contemplate a second ordeal before the hanging judges of Twickenham, thanks to a piece of video footage that, according to Wasps, shows him counselling with the head of Paul Valley, the Londoners' open-side flanker. Valley needed seven stitches in the resultant wound and gave the relevant disciplinary antecedents. Yates can expect another lengthy career break if the verdict goes against him. Stamping usually carries a 12-week penalty, but as a "head job" is considered one of rugby's more serious misde-

RUGBY UNION

By Chris Hewett

meanours, another six-month sentence cannot be ruled out.

Neither Yates nor Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, would comment yesterday, but this new affair came as a severe smack between the eyes to both men. It is conceivable that Yates, reportedly considering a move to New Zealand provincial rugby when his contract expires in May, has played his last game for the ailing West Country club. Robinson, meanwhile, has enough on his plate as a result of the 35-0 humiliation at Wasps, without new allegations of thuggery by one of his players.

Yates' reputation went into free-fall in January last year when he was accused of biting Simon Penn, the London Scottish flanker, during a Telford Cup tie at the Recreation Ground. Penn needed 25 stitches and later went public at a press conference swathed in bandages. Yates protested his innocence - he has never wavered from that stance - and spent a small fortune on legal repre-

sentation, but the RFU panel was not persuaded by his case.

Bath must be sick of disciplinary problems. Two of their other international forwards, Ben Shumham and Victor Ubo, were summoned to answer sending-off charges this season, though both were acquitted.

Talking of internationals, Clive Woodward gave the clearest hint yet that Joel Stranksy might be considered for England World Cup duty when the tournament kicks off in October. Stranksy is no Englishman, of course, as South African as biltong, the outside-half from Pietermaritzburg kicked the Springboks to the Webb Ellis Cup four years ago. But he qualifies for England in September under the three-year residency rule - he has been playing for Leicester since 1996 - and the national coach yesterday said that if his form justified inclusion this autumn, then he would be.

"If he genuinely would be better than the players we have, I would have no problem," said Woodward, who believes such an eventuality would be an indictment of England's player development programme. "We had lunch with Joel and there is no doubt that he'd love to play for the team. I'm looking at every game he plays. As a professional coach of a professional team, it's my job to pick the best available."

One big name definitely included in the national set-up is Dick Best, whose spectacular success with London Irish has earned him an honorary selector's role with the England A and Sevens squads. Best successfully coached the England Test team under the management of Geoff Cooke in the early 1990s, but failed to survive the appointment of Jack Rowell as head coach and bottlenose in 1994.

It has been one of Best's constant beefs that the Rugby Football Union never had the courtesy to tell him he was sacked, but Woodward's outstanding management skills have obviously smoothed things over. The former career Harlequin is now a prime candidate to succeed Woodward as England coach at some point in the future, although he will face stern opposition from Gloucester's Richard Hill.

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Support for De Bruin claims

THE MULTIPLE Olympic champion, Michelle de Bruin, has seized on the supposed fallibility of urine test methods alleged by a chemist acting for the shot-putter Paul Edwards to support her challenge to a four-year ban imposed last year, writes Alan Murdoch from Dublin.

De Bruin's solicitor will use the video of a demonstration of how a sample container seal could be opened and resealed without detection in the swimmer's appeal in Lausanne on 3 May to the Court for Arbitration in Sport.

De Bruin (nee Smith) was banned for four years last August by swimming's governing body, FINA. It held that

DRUGS IN SPORT

a sample analysed by its approved laboratory in Barcelona had been manipulated by the swimmer, but was unable to say how this was done.

The Irish athlete, who won three golds at the Atlanta Olympics, has been under constant scrutiny since another shot-putter with his own history of drug-test controversy, her husband Eric de Bruin, took over her coaching with striking results. He was himself once suspended for alleged use of a banned substance.

Asked if the Edwards' discovery, by chemist Dr David Brown, was a boost for her case,

she replied: "It certainly is. It is something we had known about for some time, but we just weren't able to get the Versa Paks [the FINA-approved sample containers]... to prove this."

She said the container used in taking her sample was an older type which had proved very difficult to obtain. "Versa Paks knew there was a problem with it so they recalled all of this type of canister. We had known for some time that the Versa Paks could be tampered with and re-sealed, and there would be no visible evidence that they had been tampered with."

The Edwards demonstration, in London on Tuesday, showed the container could be

opened and resealed within three minutes using a kettle, string and a knife by Edward's lawyer's secretary.

De Bruin said: "We will be getting a video of this and I assume Peter [Lennon, De Bruin's solicitor] will be following this up. If it comes to a full hearing, we will be bringing the video and possibly Dr Brown with us."

In denying she was guilty of tampering with the sample, De Bruin's legal team last August focused on weaknesses in the test containers, saying they were able to pop open if placed in boiling water, claiming her samples could have been tampered with at a later date.

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سكرا من الامم

First one-day final: Australian leg-spinner's verbal jibe provokes Hussain and sparks dramatic collapse

Warne psyches out England

Ranatunga turns his back on Australia

BY STEPHEN BRECKLEY
in Sydney

Australia 232-8
England 222
Australia win by 10 runs

MAYBE IT was Australia's idea of one last cruel joke to belittle the Poms at the end of a long, long winter. It was a beauty. There England were in the first final of the Carlton & United Series needing 35 runs off seven overs with six wickets in hand. It was a position for which the term sitting pretty could have been coined.

Twenty-two balls later, England had reduced the target by six. Unfortunately, they had also lost five of their remaining wickets and the match was effectively over. It had turned distinctly ugly. Australia, who must have taken their time only because they were laughing till they were fit to burst, eventually won by 10 runs with four balls to spare.

England, running on desperation, did not play well in that short period. Australia, fuelled by self-belief, played extremely well. This was the punchline. The joke had been set up a few overs earlier.

Nasser Hussain and Vince Wells, a man exhibiting calm maturity and surely cementing his place in the World Cup, had taken control of the game. For Hussain it had been a struggle. He had been responsible for the run-out of Graeme Hick, he had been in poor touch but he had battled his way through.

When at last he played a slog-sweep against Shane Warne it seemed the shackles had come loose. But, as Warne revealed later, he seized the moment to tighten them. "You're allowed to get one out of 20," he snarled at Hussain, and then immediately broke into that cheesy grin of his. Hussain did not smile. He was offended.

When Warne came back in the 43rd over it was the last shake of the dice. He needed wickets but England were so close they were touching victory. Hussain and Wells simply had to nudge it about. Instead, Hussain decided to advance down the pitch and make room to hit on the off side by opening the face and show Warne what he was made of.

As a gamble it was about as sensible as backing a non-runner in a one-horse race. It turned past the ball, Hussain was stranded and Adam Gilchrist took off the balls at his leisure. He had made 58 in 98 balls, the sort of place which meant he had to finish the job. "I was trying to get up his nose a little bit," Warne said. "I do anything to try and get a wicket."

Still, there was no need to panic, at least not until the next



Shane Warne shows his delight as Nasser Hussain dejectedly walks back to the dressing rooms after his dismissal in yesterday's one-day final in Sydney

ball. Adam Hoolioake swept. Perhaps this was a piece of ill judgement but it was matched by the umpire, Steve Davis. The ball appeared to strike outside leg stump but he raised his finger in answer to Warne's appeal.

Two wickets in two balls was bad enough but, just as importantly, the runs had dried up. Wells had already come to England's rescue once after Hussain had played a maiden over by striking six off the first ball of the next to sustain the rate. He took on the responsibility again by driving Shane Lee straight. Up in the air went the ball. It seemed to be soaring towards the sight screen but running round from long off was Brendan Julian. With his giant loping strides he made 15, 20, 25, 30 yards and suddenly he was able to stretch for his heart's desire and hold on to it.

Panic entered England's game now and so did Glenn McGrath. The great fast bowler was not about to spin this opportunity. He quickly had Mark Ealham caught behind fencing and then took Darren Gough's off stump. How all of England should have felt for their own big-hearted fast bowler then. Ten minutes earlier he must have had his feet up in the dressing-room thinking of making it 2-0 at Melbourne and home by Sunday. McGrath it was who polished it off by sending Alan Mullally's middle pole tumbling in the final over.

Australia might have been satisfied with their score but they were probably unsure that it was enough. England kept at them. Gough, used in three spells, was as Trojan as ever and Wells was commendable. His line was tight, his length more so. It brought him three wickets and the best fig-

ures of his short international career. He has spent a long apprenticeship on the county circuit and some eyebrows were not so much raised as in full flight when he was picked for this party. He has signed them.

Michael Bevan, the so-called best finisher in the one-day game, was there at the finish of Australia's innings. He never seemed to be in a hurry even when he was running the fastest singles around but he made 69 off 74 balls.

England and Alec Stewart started in a flurry. Stewart had been asked many times in the past week how he intended to deal with Adam Dale and had not said much in reply. When he flicked him for six in the bowler's second over he appeared to have an answer. In the fifth over of the innings McGrath pitched four successive balls short and Stewart hit them all for four. The

second almost took Bevan's thumb off at midwicket. The dislocation it actually caused will force him to miss the rest of the series.

Stewart then prodded Dale to short midwicket and, unsure that it had carried to Mark Waugh, waited for the verdict. Nick Knight again got out, bowled playing round a straight one, when he knows he should have gone on.

But Hick came in and played with control. It did not seem to matter that Hussain was out of sorts. But then Hussain jabbed to point, called for a single and then sent Hick back. Ricky Ponting was as unerring as usual as he threw down the stumps at the bowler's end.

Hussain might have thought his day could not become worse. It was only just beginning. Australia will still be laughing.

SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

Australia men's loss	England
AUSTRALIA	N V Knight b Dale 22
M E Waugh c Stewart b McGrath 42	59 mins, 35 balls, 2 fours
85 mins, 56 balls, 3 fours	A A J Stewart c Waugh b Dale 27
A C Gilchrist b Gough 29	87 mins, 50 balls, 4 fours, 1 six
33 mins, 30 balls, 3 fours	G A Hick run out (Ponting) 48
R T Ponting c Stewart b Wells 10	N H Hussain c Gilchrist b Warne 58
23 mins, 14 balls	123 mins, 98 balls, 4 fours
D S Lehmann c Mullally b Wells 19	N H Fairbrother c Gilchrist b McGrath 8
49 mins, 33 balls, 1 four	V J Wells c Julian b Lee 33
D P Martyn c Stewart b Ealham 21	61 mins, 39 balls, 3 fours, 1 six
46 mins, 30 balls, 1 six	A Hoolioake bow b Warne 0
S Lee c Fairbrother b Ealham 12	1 min, 1 ball
6-176 (Lee, 7-159 (Julian), 8-222 (Warne))	M A Ealham c Gilchrist b McGrath 4
B P Julian c sub (B Hoolioake) b Ealham 12	15 mins, 14 balls
16 mins, 13 balls, 1 four	R B D Croft not out 32
17 mins, 13 balls, 1 four	32 mins, 12 balls, 1 four
A C Dale not out 1	2 mins, 2 balls
7 mins, 3 balls	A D Mullally c McGrath 7
Bevan (50, wicket) 69	10 mins, 10 balls
80 (wickets, 218 mins, 50 overs) 232	10 mins, 10 balls
Faith 1-40 (Gilchrist), 2-67 (Ponting), 3-98	10 mins, 10 balls
(Waugh), 4-115 (Lehmann), 5-138 (Martyn),	10 mins, 10 balls
6-176 (Lee), 7-159 (Julian), 8-222 (Warne))	10 mins, 10 balls
Did not bat: G D McGrath	10 mins, 10 balls
Bowling: McGrath 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-	10 mins, 10 balls
12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
England 10-4-45-2 (no) 16-0-25-12-0-0-2 (no), 14-1-11, 15-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 16-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 17-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 18-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 19-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0), 20-0-0-2 (5-0-3-0-2-0-0)	10 mins, 10 balls
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SPORT

WIGAN'S NEW RUNNING MAN P25 • HILL LOST FOR WORDS P24

Clubs seek transfer harmony

A EUROPE-WIDE transfer window became a possibility yesterday following proposals from the newly formed Association of European Premier Leagues. The body also suggested a common European calendar for international fixtures, to avoid clashes with league matches, and said there should be a minimum number of players under the age of 21 in each team's squad.

The 13-strong group met at the offices of the Premier League, with the Sports Minister Tony Banks also in attendance. The three main ideas were put forward for further discussion at the association's next meeting, to be held in March.

The common transfer window policy is the most radical proposal as currently there are widely different arrangements, some leagues having cut-off deadlines and others having transfer windows at various times during the season.

The Premier League chief executive, Peter Lever, said: "We think it might be feasible

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

for the leagues to come together on this point. There is feeling we need harmony throughout Europe to ensure fair play and it's something we will continue to discuss."

The concept of promoting home-grown youth players follows the Scottish Football Association's rule that says at least two Scottish-born players aged under 21 years must be included in each first-team squad. The move to harmonise international dates is to try to limit the number of players missing club games to play in friendlies.

The association represents the leagues of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Switzerland, and is officially recognised by Uefa, football's European governing body.

Watford have signed the former Aston Villa, Wolves and

England winger Tony Daley until the end of the season. The 31-year-old, who rejoined the Watford manager, Graham Taylor, over the summer on a short-term contract but had to undergo a thigh operation, has played in Watford's last three First Division games.

Alex Ferguson is doing his old club Aberdeen a favour by loaning them the Scotland Under-21 striker Alex Notman for the rest of the season.

Notman has been a regular scorer for Manchester United's reserves, but is down the pecking order behind the likes of Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjær. Ferguson has told Notman to get first-team experience at Aberdeen ahead of a big push for a regular place in the United at Old Trafford next season.

The Leeds United manager, David O'Leary, has moved to strengthen his side by signing the former Germany international Marco Haber on trial. The 27-year-old midfielder is unsettled at his current club, Las Palmas after being with the Spanish Second Division side for just six months despite the club battling for promotion.

The former Arsenal and Everton midfielder Anders Limpar has joined the US Major League Soccer club Colorado Rapids for the rest of the season.

The Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov, who led Sampdoria to the 1990-91 Italian title, was hired by Perugia yesterday. He replaces Ilario Castagna, who resigned on Monday.

The former Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic scored after coming on as a substitute in Yugoslavia's 3-0 win over Malta in a Euro 2000 qualifier in Valletta yesterday.

The Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen have signed Landon Donovan, the American teenager who was courted by other leading European teams.

Asprilla up to his old tricks, page 28

Chinese food forces Jackson back home

DARREN JACKSON, the Celtic forward, yesterday declared his desire to get back into the Parkhead team after refusing a chance to play his football in China. His reason for turning down the move - the food.

Jackson, who spent time on loan with Coventry recently, was offered a transfer to the Chinese team, Dalian Wanda, last month. However, the 32-year-old, who played twice for Scotland at the World Cup last summer, decided to return to Glasgow at the weekend after a trial with the Chinese club.

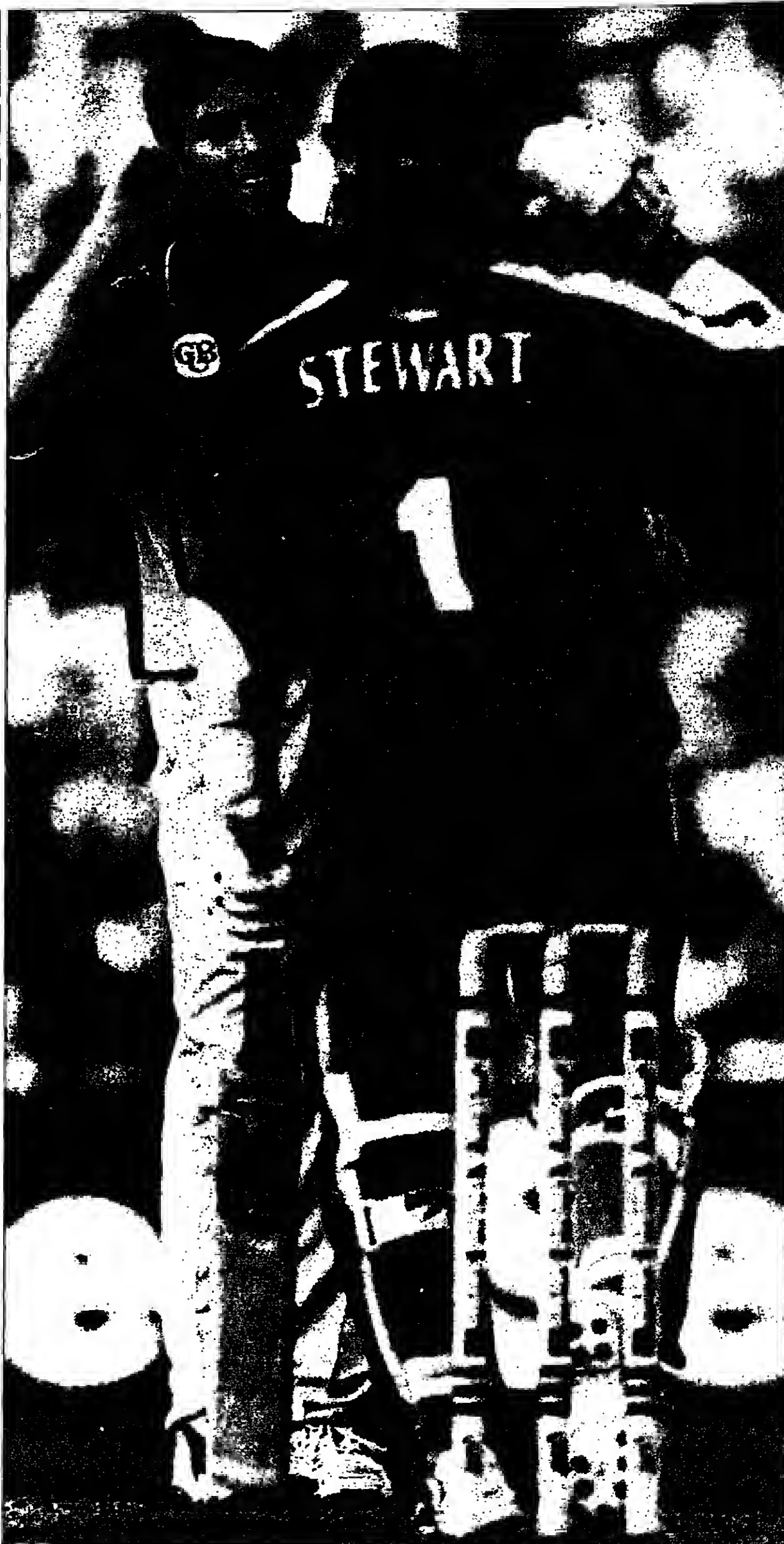
"I went out there on a conditional contract and the Chinese were fantastic and treated me very well. But I am not the

best of eaters at the best of times and the food wasn't what I am used to," Jackson said.

"I felt I wasn't eating properly and I wasn't myself. I wanted to come back after a day but I felt I had to give it a go and I lasted eight days. But it wasn't for me and I came back."

Having played only three games as a substitute in his loan spell at Coventry, Jackson faces a huge task to persuade Jozef Venglos, the Celtic head coach, that he merits renewed consideration for a first-team place.

"The boys are doing very well and I know it is going to be very hard to get back in," Jackson said.



A word in your ear: The Australian pace bowler Glenn McGrath and England's captain, Alec Stewart, seem to be having communication problems during yesterday's first one-day final in Sydney

England blew it, admits Stewart

CRICKET

BY KIERON DALEY
in Sydney

THE ENGLAND captain, Alec Stewart, said his players had only themselves to blame after blowing a winning position in Wednesday's 10-run defeat by Australia in the opening final of the triangular series.

Stewart said England should have won the 50 overs day-night match after reaching 188 for 4 chasing 233. But Australia turned the game around by taking five wickets for six runs in 22 balls to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three finals.

"We did very well to lose it," Stewart said. "We shouldn't have lost that game. We needed 35 runs off eight overs with six wickets in hand. It was definitely a game we should have won."

"We've got to make sure we tighten up our cricket at the crunch times. Eighty per cent of what we did was good but the other 20 per cent cost us the game," Stewart said. "If we can fix that 20 per cent we can definitely win back-to-back matches."

Stewart's opposite number, Shane Warne, said he was relieved to have won the match but paid tribute to his bowlers for the way they fought back. "They [England] looked like they were going to coast home when they needed less than a run a ball," Warne said. "But I think we just created the pressure and forced them into bad shots. That's the beauty of this current Australian side. We seem to be able to pull something out of the bag when we need to."

The only dismal note for Australia was that Michael Bevan, their top scorer with 69 not out, will miss the rest of the series after dislocating a finger while fielding.

Once Hussain had recklessly charged Shane Warne and been stumped, England were knocked out of cruise control and spluttered to a 10-run defeat with four balls remaining.

At one point, Hussain and Warne appeared to have a brief verbal altercation in the middle, but Stewart said he was not aware of "any battle of wits, or battle of words".

Warne was more forthcoming, however. The Australian captain revealed: "He hit me for a slog-sweep for four. I said to him 'You are allowed to get one out of 20'. The next minute he kept going. I wasn't exactly sure what was happening."

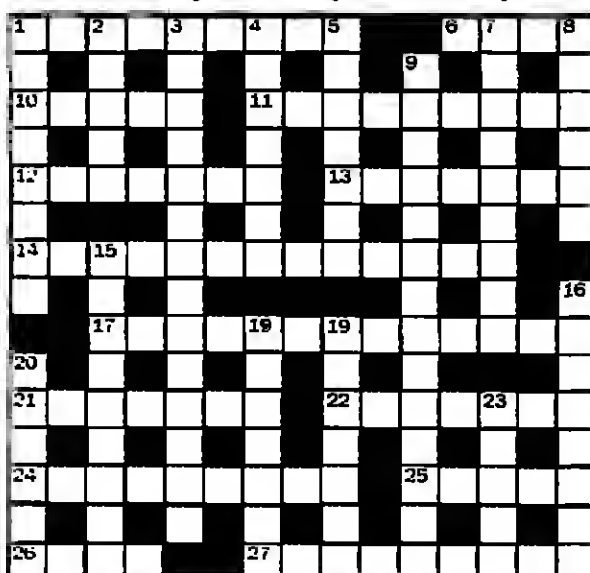
"He was pretty fired up but he's allowed to be, I suppose. In the end I was just glad to get him out; a pretty satisfying wicket. I was trying to get up his nose a little bit. He played a pretty ordinary shot as we were applying the pressure."

Match report, page 27

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3843 Thursday 11 February

by Pedro



ACROSS

- 1 Smooth beach - standard around Portugal and Spain (9)
- 6 Doctor returned to admit one in pain (4)
- 10 Less covered with trees, except for British tree (5)
- 11 Elaborate red robe I'm to alter (9)
- 12 Island is source of drug used to restrict form of occupational hazard (7)
- 13 Copper sets about leader of demo with batons? (7)
- 14 Drunk heads for savoury food (7,6)
- 17 Supporter of this could be upset re Green "luna-cy" (7,6)
- 21 Pop music that is seen

DOWN

- 1 The result of applying oils to water? (8)
- 2 Part of depression - a dire low point (5)
- 3 Ground ill-appreciates astronomical phenomenon (7,7)
- 4 Motley number of Romans captured by power that is evil (7)
- 5 A hard point to get past - a difficulty one gets with study (7)
- 7 Notice theatrical worker, one making a speech (9)
- 8 Brazen old crane bolding knight up (6)
- 9 Wastrel only breaking law when paid? (4-3-7)
- 15 Firm rattle of coins gets us awake (9)
- 16 Observed pattern, silly, empty, terribly modern (8)
- 18 Most of the rest care to see part of London (4,3)
- 19 A penny snatched by old Italian tramp (7)
- 20 Set to introduce recipe, prepared earlier? (6)
- 23 Extremist last month escaped, dropping note (5)

Wednesday's solution

BALENTIALK SHADES
H A O O E I O
ANNOUNCE GABEUS
S G C A D U S
SEULIEMER HADUUS
Y E E R O C H A
P A I N H E A R T
S U O U E E E
P A M E R I N G E
O U T I O E S A G
T R O U P E S C O T T R E
W O F O V I N
E R A S I E R O V E R S H O E
L I E S E A U
D I R I A N I S G R I E V A I R I A

Metcalf slams Scots' structure

RUGBY UNION
BY BRYN PALMER

SCOTLAND'S FULL-BACK, Glenn Metcalfe, admitted he may play his rugby elsewhere next season if officials cannot come up with a suitable structure for the professional game north of the border.

The New Zealander, who has lived in Glasgow for several years, is ready to leave if the super districts are not given a competitive fixture list.

Metcalf missed much of Glasgow Caledonians' European Cup campaign through injury this season but proved his fitness sufficiently in the Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Trophy last month to win back his international place.

Last Saturday's Five Nations win over Wales was the 27-year-old's home debut after his first caps against Australia last summer, but Murrayfield may be the only venue Scottish rugby fans can catch him in future.

The Reds' disappointing showing in the European Cup, where they failed to reach the knockout stages, has led many

to question the wisdom of the amalgamation of Glasgow and the Caledonia Reds.

And while the Edinburgh Reivers fared slightly better but still faltered on the verge of the quarter-finals, Metcalfe believes a return to a more regionalised structure may be the answer.

"I still want to play rugby in Scotland but everything has to be right off the pitch for that to happen," he said yesterday.

"If it is anything like the structure this year, I am not sure I want to be part of it because I want to play meaningful rugby every week."

"We had a great squad with Caley this year but even getting everyone together at one venue for training was difficult."

"We all got on really well but we never really got the chance to create that club spirit with people coming from all over. We should have been taking teams

apart with the players we had but I think we lost a bit of that club feeling where you play the game and then go and have a drink together afterwards."

"Instead we had people driving a couple of hours a day to get there and heading their separate ways afterwards."

While talks are currently taking place aimed at the creation of a possible "Celtic" or "Gaelic" league for next season,

Metcalf believes Ulster's European Cup triumph has provided a possible template for Scotland to follow.

"Professionalism shouldn't change things so much to the point where you are not enjoying the rugby," he added. "And we need to find a different structure. Maybe we should go the way of the Irish and set back to four districts again."

While his long-term future, like many other home-based players, remains uncertain for the time being, Metcalfe now has his sights fixed on Scotland's game at Twickenham next Saturday.

After the intensity of the opener against Wales, he admits the Five Nations experience lived up to his expectations.

"It was a big buzz for me, being my first Five Nations game, and speaking to a few people back in New Zealand afterwards all I could say to them was that it was more than just a game of rugby," he said.

"There is so much added

pressure with there being only four matches and there is no leeway or margin for error."

"But I felt a lot calmer and more controlled beforehand because I do suffer from nerves. I was told to run the ball back at them as much as possible and I thought I did that OK."

Metcalf took time out to give high-school children in Drumchapel - on the outskirts of Glasgow - a master class today alongside his Scotland team-mate Gordon Bulloch as part of a rugby initiative throughout Scotland's schools.

"It is good to come back and be involved in this kind of project," said Bulloch, who has risen through the ranks at district and national levels to become his country's No 1 hooker.

"You come to schools like this and you can see the raw talent that is there. If even only one small child wants to take up the game and shows up, well, then it is worthwhile."

Yates cited, page 25



Metcalf: 'Added pressure'

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

England
blew it,
admits
Stewart



Zemlanchenko Alexander

Resign? Over his dead body

Fate can be terribly cruel. Just after Boris Yeltsin touched down, returning from King Hussein's funeral, his Ilushin-96 presidential plane was in a collision. Its wing hit a jet carrying the Italian Prime Minister, reports said later that Rome's man was taxiing "contrary to instructions".

Though the damage was slight, it was the final humiliation in an expedition that was fraught with risk from the outset. Looking ill and disoriented, Boris Yeltsin spent less than three hours in Jordan before bolting home, leaving the world even more convinced that his days are numbered. The Russian papers were derisive. "Yeltsin did not make it to the grave but was very close to it," said *Moskovski Komsomolets*.

Why on earth did he go? His doctors warned against it. He was not particularly close to the King, and was certainly less involved in the Middle East than his Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov - the obvious choice as Russia's representative.

Moreover, his foreign ventures often produce disasters. No Yeltsin obituary will omit his failure to disembark from his plane in Ireland in 1994, or his aborted attempts to conduct an orchestra in Berlin. As his physical and mental decline has steepened, these episodes have become less comic than sad, and more frequent.

In Sweden in late 1997, he caused astonishment by suggesting that the Japanese and Germans had nuclear weapons; in Uzbekistan last year, he almost keeled over in front of the TV cameras. The following day, in Kazakhstan, he looked astonishingly ashen - a lost, drugged figure who seemed barely able to summon up the mental strength to sign a document. It took him 25 seconds to complete his signature; then he shuffled out, after mumbling angrily about the press telling lies.

So, why did he go to the funeral? The answer is part personality and part politics. It was the desperate act of a leader worried about his diminished status on the world stage. It was also that of a politician badly liked by evidence that another - Mr Primakov - has stealthily taken the reins of power.

Boris Yeltsin cares much about how history will view him. Entwined deep within his complex character is a fear that he will be remembered not as a world statesman, who - in his winning, rough-hewn way - piloted an empire through the agony of collapse, but as someone who failed to grow much beyond his roots as a Siberian party boss, whose actions were primarily determined by an instinct to survive - just like other former party apparatchiki who still control the power and perks across many of Russia's regions.

A year ago, he could have expected better. Reforms and privatisation (although appallingly corrupt) were staggering along. The rouble was stable.

Boris Yeltsin is a hobbled figure on the world stage. He has survived double pneumonia, bronchitis, heart trouble and a bleeding ulcer, yet he is a political corpse, hated at home, a laughing stock abroad. And the vultures are hovering. So why is he hanging on to power?

Predictions of civil war and revolution had proved wrong. Yeltsin had returned to power in an election which, by post-Soviet standards, was clean-ish (although there were campaign finance violations and grossly biased media coverage). The war in Chechnya remained unforgotten by Russians, but in the West - which generally paid it far too little attention in the first place - it was quickly being forgotten. There was a chance that history would be generous, remembering him as the debaucher who bravely confronted headline coup plotters in 1991 from the turret of a tank.

Now, the best of these achievements are in ruins. Tens of thousands of skilled, young, urban Russians, the beginnings of a consumer middle class, are jobless. The rouble is worth a quarter of its value in mid-1998; Russia has - at least for the time being - alienated the international financial community.

The nation's misery is measured by a pulse of individual tragedies: a pensioner who immolated himself on Red Square, rampaging soldiers who slaughter their comrades, and themselves with amazing regularity; thieves who cut off the hair of bus passengers to sell it; workers paid not in cash but in loo rolls or canned food; countless children begging on the streets; three girls - not one older than 14 - who, after writing a suicide note, on Monday hurled themselves to their deaths from an eighth-storey window. (Whatever their motives - be they unrequited love or a cult's influence - this horror says much about the alienation of youth, parenthood, and a derelict education system.)

If you explore the wreckage, the charitably minded can still find reasons to give credit to the President. Today's Russians can say and read what they like; and - for the minority with the money - can travel freely. In contrast to the United States, the world's chief sermoniser on human rights, Russia has suspended capital punishment.

Yet this is overshadowed by larger problems. Boris Yeltsin is hated at home - three-quarters of his population want to see him impeached - and regarded with a mixture of pity and dismay abroad. In his twilight years, he can counter this only by resorting to a tactic at which he used to be a maestro - grand, unexpected stunts.

There was a trace of this in St Petersburg last summer when he appeared at the funeral of Nicholas II and his family. But, as the Jordan fiasco



Top, Yeltsin struggles to get up after a meeting at the Kremlin. Above, Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's 'de facto' leader

proved, his touch has deserted him. He has acquired the air of an ageing actor, long ago stripped of the lead, who keeps blundering out of the wings in the hope of stealing into a spotlight occupied by others.

In reality, Boris Yeltsin's presidency ended five months ago, after he sacked his government (led by the 36-year-old Sergei Kiriyenko) - the second to go within a few months - after it had announced a default of foreign and domestic debts and abandoned

BY PHIL REEVES

the battle to defend the rouble. His final demise came when the State Duma, the lower house, rejected his nomination for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who had already done the job before - dismally, in the eyes of most Russians. A compromise candidate, Yevgeny Primakov, the Foreign Minister, was ushered in, posing as a loyal servant who was too old (69, a year older than Mr Yeltsin) to have any greater ambitions. Humiliated, the President retired to the shadows, in which he has hidden for much of his second term, wrestling with illness.

Since then Mr Primakov has seized the initiative, steadily securing the status of Russia's "de facto"

leader. After a cautious start, his presidential aspirations have grown more blatant. He has assiduously wooed the Duma's powerful Communists, and has courted regional leaders, both key power bases. Allies from his days as foreign intelligence chief have been planted in strategic jobs. At his back stands a government that has little sympathy for the Kremlin or its occupant, but plenty for Soviet methods.

When Mr Primakov first took over the Premier's job, Mr Yeltsin appeared resigned to life in the twilight; his aides conceded that he was no longer governing day to day but was working on constitutional issues. His weekly radio addresses stopped, and his staged appearances on TV grew rarer.

But what he cannot have expected - and clearly resents - is the manner in which Mr Primakov has turned his firepower on the Kremlin itself. The Premier has launched a campaign against the oligarchic Boris Berezovsky, a friend of Mr Yeltsin's influential daughter Tatyana, a man who until recently could make or break a government. Two companies - affiliates of the oil conglomerate Sibneft, and Aeroflot - linked to the tycoon were raided by police amid allegations that he was running a private intelligence-gathering operation which spied on the Kremlin.

Nor was the President amused when Mr Primakov went to parliament flourishing a deal in which Mr Yeltsin would get immunity from prosecution in retirement and an end to the (largely symbolic) impeachment proceedings against him in return for an agreement not to dissolve the legislature or sack the government. The President rejected the offer with warnings that he was not about to give away any of his constitutional powers.

Throughout, Mr Primakov has insisted that he has no desire for the top job. But there is a sense, hard to pinpoint, but palpable, that he is quietly being anointed as the heir to the Kremlin, as the monolithic forces that shape the land - the minerals monopolies, the regional elite, the media - gradually coalesce around him. A transfer of power, a murky process in which the ballot box will play but a minor role, is under way. So much for democracy.

This impression is underscored by most of the other likely contenders for the Kremlin who - for all their shrillness - do not seem ready to do battle. General Alexander Lebed, governor of Krasnoyarsk,

is collapsing beneath the weight of running a vast Siberian region. Russia's democrats - a much-abused term embracing Thatcherite economists, liberal democrats and non-ideological super-rich with fortunes to defend - have proved incapable of unity, and are too widely disliked to have a hope.

It is questionable whether Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of the Communists, and runner-up at the last election, really wants the presidency. He runs the only nationwide political party, and can still expect to muster the support of one in five Russian voters. Yet true power could quickly shatter the coalition of Stalinists, mouth-frothing nationalists and progressive socialists who stand behind him. Given the sums of money at stake in Russia, and the national habit of settling scores with a Kalashnikov, his life would be at risk.

Only one man, the formidable mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, seems genuinely keen to compete for the presidency.

Thus, for now, Boris Yeltsin is tolerated. Critically, this allows him to fulfil one of his goals, again with an eye to history. By completing his term, he takes another step towards ensuring that the constitution - a document that he forced through in a suspect 1993 referendum, and which is still widely ignored - becomes law. It is an issue about which he really seems to care.

For many months, Western TV crews have been on death watch in Moscow, confined to the capital. For months, obituaries have been ready in newspaper offices around the world. Yet, though a political corpse, Boris Yeltsin is not dead yet. He has been under assault from an array of conditions that would floor many another, which - if the Kremlin is to be believed - include double pneumonia, bronchitis, heart trouble, a bleeding ulcer, colds, flu and throat afflictions. But it is not impossible that he will follow the example of another equally accomplished boozier, Winston Churchill, whose heart and health caused his doctor concern from before the start of the war. He died at 91 - a decade after his resignation in 1953, much of which time was spent staring into a coal fire with a rug on his knees.

Sick though he is, Boris Yeltsin could stagger on for a while yet. Certainly, his aides - led now by a former KGB general - are trying to discourage those full-time mourners who have long been wringing their hands at their boss's graveside. This week a senior Kremlin official said that there would be more outings to France, Germany and - perilously given the distance and conditions - to Africa and Latin America, before his term ends in mid-2000.

Russians, fearful of more embarrassment, will pray that he stays at home. So will the Moscow political establishment, and his sympathisers in the West. But this is a man with a famously perverse nature. Those are just the sort of sentiments that will encourage Boris Yeltsin to make one more Lear-like lurch on to the stage.

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Rethink law reform

Sir: The Access to Justice Bill is set to revolutionise legal aid, from which 3.5 million people benefited last year.

For the first time its budget is to be capped and citizens denied free choice amongst competent solicitors willing to take their cases. Further, since criminal legal aid is to have budget priority, civil legal aid will only get what is left.

The Lord Chancellor was right when he told the Bar Conference in 1996 that "cost capping is unattractive in principle (and) would in practice become a discretionary benefit, available at bureaucratic discretion, a benefit which would have to be disallowed when the money ran out..."

The highly dirigiste system by which the Legal Services Commission will keep within the cap will reduce the 10,000 solicitors' offices which currently do legal aid to about 3,000 quality-assured firms. This will be primarily achieved by competitive block tendering, which, according to classical wholesaling assumptions, will enable the commission to buy bulk legal services at cut prices.

This is, however, cloud-cuckoo land (especially since the Government claims that quality will not be affected). Legal aid is already the lowest-paying work done by solicitors, yielding roughly half what private client work returns.

If all that is not enough, money claims (particularly personal injury ones) are to be excluded from legal aid on the basis that poor claimants can in future find solicitors to act under conditional fee agreements. But solicitors won't want difficult or low-value cases, and with soaring premiums for costs insurance, and pre-agreement costs to pay for thousands of people will lose their chance of redress.

It is not even as if the Legal Aid budget is any longer "out of control". The existing regime has largely taken care of that and could go further if available checks and balances were better used.

The Law Society, the Bar Council, the Legal Action Group, the Legal Aid Practitioners Group and many experienced Labour lawyers are urging the Government to think again. It would be greatly to their credit if they did.

LORD PHILLIPS OF SUDBURY
House of Lords
London SW1

A leader for London

Sir: David Aaronovitch's line that anyone who is not New Labour is irresponsible and like a teenager is no argument at all ("These rebels may be game for a laugh, but they're good for nothing", 9 February). Many of us support Ken Livingstone because we have long memories, not short ones. He got things done and he had a transport policy. For people who try to get about London, that is as important as his jokes.

I am surprised Aaronovitch did not observe that Livingstone supporters do not wash their milk bottles. Perhaps he ran out of space.

JOAN CLANCHY
London NW6

Sir: The saga of Ken Livingstone's thwarted attempts to stand as mayor of London clearly illustrates a fundamental point: elections are only one obvious element of a functioning democracy. The system by which parties select candidates is at least as important, since it determines how much of a meaningful choice the electorate is given.

The Labour leadership has accelerated a trend of removing selection powers from publicly accessible bodies and centralizing them within the private executive. This should be of grave concern to all those concerned about the quality of British democracy.

GILES BURGESS
Seattle, Washington, USA

Sir: Your report that inner London "heads the wealth league" (10 February) is misleading. Inner London may be the top producer of

wealth, but its inhabitants are far from being the richest.

Inner London contains some of the poorest areas in Britain. Indeed, of the 20 poorest boroughs in Britain, 14 are in London.

While Londoners earn more, the cost of living is higher, with the effect that the standard of living in the capital is below the UK average.

JEFFREY ARCHER
(Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare)
House of Lords
London SW1

Zinoviev secret

Sir: May I add a memory to the history of the Zinoviev letter, which has just been produced by Gill Bennett, Chief Historian at the Foreign Office (report, 4 February)? About 40 years ago I had dinner with Lord Davidson. He had been the right-hand man and closest intimate of Stanley Baldwin. He had also been Bonar Law's link with the secret service. He knew I was Guy Kindersley's grandson. He told me the following story.

Davidson became aware of the Zinoviev letter through his secret service involvement. He knew my grandfather was explosively anti-Communist and could be relied on to make a great fuss if he were to hear of it. Davidson therefore arranged for Donald Im Thurn, a former MI5 agent and a director of a City company to take the letter to Guy Kindersley's "trusted friend in the City" just before the 1924 election.

Kindersley, also the Conservative MP for Hitchin, unaware of Im Thurn's connection with Davidson, took the letter to the Daily Mail, with devastating results for the Labour Party at the 1924 election. Davidson told me how delighted he and Baldwin were when Kindersley berated them for doing nothing about the Zinoviev letter.

It seems that Baldwin and Davidson used a willing Donald Im Thurn to cover their tracks. He wrote to Conservative Central

Office about the payoff to a fishbones source of the leak that had disappeared to Argentina!

The redeeming feature of this outrageous conspiracy is that everyone involved thought the letter was real. They believed they were acting in the national interest. The interests of the Conservative Party were ruthlessly pursued under that banner.

The Rev PAUL NICHOLSON
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Mad scientist

Sir: "Any religion sounds barking mad except to those brought up in it," writes Professor Dawkins (letter, 9 February). However, he fails to mention that most areas of science sound equally "barking mad".

"I am the product of a fish" doesn't sound totally sensible, and yet the theory of evolution relies on it. This letter arrived by e-mail at The Independent's offices because millions of tiny particles, which aren't always particles but are sometimes waves, vibrated down a piece of copper and were converted into words by a piece of silicon. Sound "barking mad"? It does to me!

If those brought up in a religion believe something that is "barking

mad", how much more those that are "converted" to the faith of modern-day science!

TIM SHORT
Department of Engineering
University of Reading

Sir: More fun from Richard Dawkins! You could play his game with anything - let's say symphony concerts. A lot of people sit in a semi-circle, for some reason in evening dress. They start hitting things and blowing down metal tubes. Some have wooden female bodies between their knees and stroke them with rods. A man at the front nearly goes berserk waving a stick and none of them looks at him. Noises arise unlike any heard elsewhere in the human or animal kingdom. At the end, the spectators make a sound with their hands and everyone goes home.

Other subjects: climbing Mount Everest; biochemistry labs. If you stop publishing Dawkins, I'll cancel The Independent. He's better than Tommy Cooper.

JOHN POWELL WARD
Horion Kirby, Kent

Sir: It is a pity that Richard Dawkins couldn't be bothered to find out what Christianity teaches. The point of Jesus' death was to pay for our sin. We all sin and no

one (except Jesus) has led a perfect life. You only need to look at one of the papers to see that.

It was by Jesus's sacrifice of himself that my sin has been paid for. I wonder who Professor Dawkins wishes to pay for his own sin - it'll either be himself or Jesus.

And there are plenty of Christians, like myself, who were not brought up in it.

GRAHAM POINTER
St Andrews, Fife

Little pets

Sir: Why do people have children? Let us be honest. Children in Britain are conceived because social convention and prospective grandparents demand it, through genuine error, through foolishness, following a surfeit of alcohol, because of neurotic need, or because some people love children (or think they do until they've got one). Also, as Terence Blacker points out (Comment, 9 February), they are desired as designer accessories or pets.

In the light of these motivations, how can Jean Molloy (letter, 9 February), maintain that child-rearing is a "social" and not an individual project? Does she really believe that intending (or unintended) parents are thinking

of England? No, sir, even those who carefully and thoughtfully plan their families act from purely selfish motives - they want children - and that is just as it should be.

Many of the dire social problems we are creating for ourselves could be largely avoided if people asked themselves exactly why they were initiating pregnancies. We pay more attention to the purchase of a car or a car than we do to one of the most solemnly responsible and potentially wonderful acts possible, the production of a new person.

PETER GALBRAITH
Leicester

Kershaw's move

Sir: In his dismally uncritical puff for Andy Parfitt ("They're playing our tune again", 9 February), Ilyss Williams overlooks the controller of Radio 1's crowning achievement in his relentless drive downmarket. I refer to the shafting of his namesake.

Andy Kershaw's world music and roots programme has long been a haven of rare breadth and depth amid the wastes of shallow pop and rap. At the second attempt - the first was defeated by a listener backlash - Parfitt has banished this from its established evening slot to the wee small hours after midnight. Very considerate of him, for those of us who work 9 to 5.

And pretty hypocritical for someone who's quoted as opposing schedule changes that muck about with "familiar voices... embedded... in people's lives."

As a public service broadcaster, the BBC is supposed to give us quality and variety. Surely one measly two-hour slot per week (barely 1 per cent of total output) at a civilized hour, to cover a thriving genre which just happens to be the music of most of our planet, is not too much to expect even from the narrow-minded ratings-chaser that Parfitt is oddly proud to be.

ADAM FOSTER-CARTER
Shipley, West Yorkshire

Desert war threat

Sir: On 11 February the UN peace mission in the Western Sahara may be withdrawn. If it is, war will almost certainly ensue there within days.

The UN mission is in the area attempting to maintain a ceasefire between the occupation forces of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario, who represent the indigenous people of the area, the Saharawi. The UN's other task was to oversee a referendum on the future of the territory, forcibly occupied by Morocco in 1975, a referendum that Morocco agreed to in 1997 but which it has refused to implement.

The UN Secretary-General cites a "lack of political will" on the part of the Moroccan authorities for the breakdown in the situation. But Moroccan "will" to stay in military occupation of the Western Sahara is bolstered by a £5 per annum handout from every man woman and child in the UK, via the EU aid budget. The £280m involved is used by the Moroccan authorities through budgetary transfers to ease the £1m per day cost of the military occupation of the Western Sahara.

Morocco is hugely dependent on British and European tourism. If war breaks out in the Western Sahara it may well spread throughout Morocco and the other countries in the region. I would ask your readers, many of whom vacation in Morocco, to consider these facts when deciding on this year's holiday destination.

LORD WISE
House of Lords
London SW1

Control of the Net

Sir: In his Right of Reply (8 February), John Carr castigates libertarians who oppose government regulation of the Internet as nihilistic and cynical. He then states that while he has no wish to interfere with whatever adults may choose to view, there has to be protection for children.

I oppose government regulation of the Net not because I wish to plumb the depths of depravity, but because as an adult I am capable of exercising my own judgement. As a parent, I don't want my daughter viewing material I consider inappropriate. I will therefore supervise her use of the Net until she has sufficient judgement and maturity to decide for herself. I would rather take the trouble to do this than rely on government.

DAVE AMIS
Stanford le Hope, Essex

Third World rights

Sir: Professor Kenneth Minogue's racist polemic, "Arguing the case for the nation state" (Podium, 5 February) must be rejected as post-imperialist nonsense. His suggestion that the peoples of Africa "most notably lack" certain "invisible moral virtues" possessed by "us in the West" is absurd.

Globalisation exacerbates inequalities of wealth but not for the reasons suggested by Professor Minogue. War economies are not the monopoly of any one country or region.

A front-page article in the same issue ("Rebuke for Cook over Sierra Leone" refers to the "arms to Sierra Leone affair". The global arms bazaar has more to do with current economic crises than the presence or absence of any "moral virtues".

"Democracy, I have no doubt, is doomed," says Professor Minogue. The end of apartheid in South Africa is evidence to the contrary. Notwithstanding the persistence of racism, even among some intellectuals, fundamental human rights are universal and must be constantly defended against those who claim the superiority of "Western" civilisation.

ANTHONY H. RICHMOND
Emeritus Professor of Sociology
York University, Toronto

Pass the word...

Sir: Time to huddle Chris Woodhead, I think.

JULIE BRINTON
Macclesfield, Cheshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Winter in Moscow No 4: Yuri receiving treatment for frostbite at a medical clinic for homeless people. There are an estimated 100,000 homeless people in Moscow, in temperatures averaging -20°C
Andy Johnstone

IN BRIEF

interesting language to pronounce and listen to - it manages to be sibilant, nasal, guttural and elliptical at the same time. "Escudos" is pronounced "sloo-dosh" and sometimes the "dosh" is all you hear.

Mrs RUTH GRIMSLEY
Sheffield

Sir: I admire people managing to obtain benefits ("We make no apologies for our tough benefits regime", 10 February). I am 56 and have worked

throughout my adult life. Recently I had cancer: chemotherapy and radiotherapy, then shingles and a spell in hospital for dehydration.

I applied for disability benefit. I was asked such questions as "Can you walk upstairs?" (physical health OK) and "Can you answer a telephone?" (mental health OK). I was refused benefits and told to find a job. It occurred to me afterwards that everyone in the waiting room had walking sticks. Silly me.

JILL SOUTHWARK
Birmingham

You say genetically modified tomato - and I say no

SO WHAT'S all this genetic engineering, then?

I beg your pardon? This genetic engineering. What's it all about, then?

Oh, you mean, this business of trying to isolate the gene for schizophrenia or homosexuality or baldness, or whatever you disapprove of, and trying to eliminate it?

My goodness! I didn't know tomatoes were ever homosexual or bald.

Ah, tomatoes! You're not talking about people. You're talking about genetic modification of vegetables and crops.

Yes. And it's always tomatoes, for some reason. Nobody ever seems to get into a pickle about apples or oranges, only tomatoes. Why is that?

Probably because more people

in Britain try to grow their own tomatoes than any other vegetable, so they see it as a kind of private preserve. Touch my tomato and you touch my soul. An Englishman's home is his greenhouse. We see tomatoes as very British - even though they come from abroad.

From Italy, you mean?

No, no, no. They went to Italy. But they originally came from South America, from the Andes. Where potatoes also came from.

Good heavens. So, before 1492 European culture survived entirely without the help of spuds or tomatoes?

Yes.

Extraordinary.

Not extraordinary as the fact that in the years since 1492 the Italians have used the tomato to create a wonderful national cuisine.

and the Americans have used it to create nothing but ketchup.

And it is these very same Americans who now want to alter the tomato?

I think so.

And why do they want to alter tomatoes genetically?

To make them last longer. To resist disease. To make them redder and shinier and bigger. All the things that supermarkets like. If they could genetically alter them to make them square and easier to pack, they would.

And lastly, too, and cheaper presumably?

No. Supermarkets aren't interested in making things tastier. Or even cheaper.

So how do supermarkets want to change things?

By making them more conven-



MILES KINGTON
'Touch my tomato and you touch my soul. An Englishman's home is his greenhouse'

nient. What appeals to a supermarket is a stack of tomatoes lying very near a stack of washing

powders and not far from the crisps and biscuits.

Could a tomato be genetically engineered to be near washing powders and crisps?

Not yet.

Could a customer be genetically altered to prefer tomatoes in supermarkets?

No. He doesn't have to be. It is already done through cultural conditioning. A customer is gradually led to believe over the years that tomatoes in supermarkets are cheaper, better and tastier than what you get in the local shop.

And are they?

Of course not. They don't have to be. As long as the customer thinks they are, it doesn't matter whether they actually are or not. So you're against genetic engineering?

Not necessarily. I'm just against supermarket philosophy. I agree with TV chef Anthony Worrall Thompson, who urged supermarkets to stop filling their shelves with new products that nobody wants, like disgusting lemon-flavoured creams in aerosols, and give more space to fresh food. I agree with him and I disagree with Moira Hilliam.

Who is Moira Hilliam?

She is a market intelligence manager for new food products who says, in to Tuesday's Evening Standard: "Mr Worrall Thompson is entitled to his opinion, but it is worth noting that a lot of products that started out as being weird and wonderful are now part of the mainstream. Yoghurt, Pot Noodles, soya sauce and even curly air started as new products once..."

Hold on, hold on! I'll give her Pot

Noodles, and she's welcome, but is she saying that yoghurt and curly air and soya sauce started life as a product? A spokesperson for supermarkets is unaware that all these things were in existence hundreds of years before supermarkets arrived? In the form of real food?

She isn't a spokesperson. She is a market intelligence officer.

Do you think a supermarket spokesperson can ever be genetically modified to acquire super-intelligence?

Not in our lifetime. I fear.

IF YOU want to know more, send for our leaflet, "OK, I May Go and Spend a Fortune Once a Week at Sainsbury's or Tesco, But That Doesn't Mean I Approve of What I'm Doing".

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A cautious proposal caught up in some damaging spin

ONCE UPON a time, welfare reform was going to be New Labour's big idea. It was all about "thinking the unthinkable". It was to be the Government's abiding legacy, on a historical par with old-age pensions and the National Health Service. Then reality set in. Frank Field and Harriet Harman were sacked and Social Security was handed to the pragmatic Alistair Darling, a shrewd man who will not fall into the elephant trap of "big bang" welfare reform. For that, at least, we should be grateful.

Many of Mr Darling's proposals are modest, if rather offensively oversold by the spin doctors. This is not the "tough welfare crackdown" it is made out to be. The unemployed can already lose Jobseeker's Allowance if they turn down a reasonable offer of work. The new "single gateway" means that no claimant will stay on benefit unless he or she attends a "back-to-work" interview every five years. That should not be too onerous.

The Government is right to help people with disabilities and lone parents into work, if – and only if – that is what they are able to do. But providing quality advice, subsidising the child-care costs of lone parents who want to work, and investing in people with disabilities, will cost the Government more money, even though it would be cash well spent. Far too many intelligent and talented disabled people remain excluded from the jobs market. We haven't heard much about such things.

But what is truly insidious is not the detail of Mr Darling's policies, but some of their underlying assumptions, assumptions carried over from the Tories, and revealed by colourful spin.

Given all the soundbites about "something-for-nothing dependency", one would think that, to use the economist's jargon, there was no such thing as involuntary unemployment. Ministers talk as though the jobs really were there for the unemployed if only they could be persuaded to take them. But if unemployment could be solved by increasing the frequency of patronising "restart" interviews and the like, we should have seen full employment long ago. What really affects unemployment, as Mr Darling's colleague Mr Byers pointed out last week, is the health of the economy, entrepreneurship, competition, and education and training (the high-quality variety, that is).

Another assumption abroad is that all lone parents ought to be at work. Mr Darling should say, clearly, that lone parents' choice to remain at home with their children is something to be respected, not resented. The balance between work and care can only be struck by the individual.

Mr Darling should not spill his pragmatic approach by spreading silly slogans about the true nature of unemployment. The cycle of "something-for-nothing" soundbites must be broken.



Prosperity is the best means of birth control

TAKEN AT face value, the figures are terrifying. In a few months' time, the world's population will reach 6 billion, having doubled in less than 40 years. It took all of history until 1804 for humankind to chalk up its first billion. Adding a sixth one has taken just 12 years and, according to data presented to the current UN Population Forum in The Hague, world population will cease growing only around 2200, when it will have reached 11 billion. That is assuming that climatic catastrophe, environmental collapse or military Armageddon has not already put us out of our overcrowded misery.

But there is no reason to despair. For one thing, the population explosion reflects well, not badly, on our species. It has been caused not by some malign genetic failure, but by success – by advances in techniques of food production,

sanitation and health care that have increased wealth and life expectancy beyond the dreams of even 100 years ago.

Second, history, and above all the history of this ever-faster-forward century, is littered with false predictions of apocalypse. Not long before it began, wise souls were forecasting that on then current trends in public transport, London would soon be buried under several feet of horse manure. Two decades ago, we were being warned of how only coal and nuclear energy could prevent an energy shortage that would halt economic expansion in its tracks. Today, the oil price stands at less than a third of its 1973 level, nuclear power is discredited, and boundless reserves of far cleaner natural gas have sent the coal industry the way of the horse-drawn carriage. And now the micro-processor and the microchip: a third industrial revolution still in its infancy, which will surely make it easier, in ways we can hardly imagine, for this much-abused planet to accommodate still more of us.

Even so, simple Micawberism is not enough. We cannot

trust for ever that some technological *deus ex machina* will save us from our fecundity. Nor have we in the developed world the right to demand that the poorer two-thirds of humanity forgo the economic wealth we enjoy, in the interests of the ozone layer and of preventing global warming. Indeed, as demographers tirelessly point out, nothing is as effective in reducing the size of Third-World families as rising living standards. Growth, in short, must be encouraged. The question is, what sort of growth?

Clearly, the developing world cannot take the old smoke-stack road to riches. Even this long-suffering Earth could not tolerate everyone in India and China generating as much waste and pollution as the average American (or, indeed, Briton). But there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a world with 6 billion cars and 6 billion fridges. What is essential is that they do not damage the ozone layer and raise carbon monoxide levels. And the same principle applies for human beings. It matters not how many of us there are – but whether we can live in happiness and dignity.

So whose fault is it, Mr Campbell, if the press is obsessed with trivia?

IT WAS during the last general election, and we on the Tony Blair campaign battle bus had reached Stevenage. Or was it Basildon? Whatever, we were inside one of those modern community theatres that usually host bingo, f'ol chi and Eddie Izzard, but whose car park was at this moment home to The Five (colourful Pledges of New Labour, each blown up to gigantic size and mounted on the back of a lorry).

The smiling leader of the opposition was walking through a crowd of strategically placed nurses, schoolchildren and victims of youth crime. As he progressed, a very left-wing woman journalist pointed at the tall figure of Alastair Campbell (following his leader, eyes darting hither and yon like a Secret Service bodyguard), and confided to me, *so to voice*, that she would like to rip the press secretary's clothes off and subject him to a strenuous off-the-record briefing.

This was one incident from that morning that sticks in my memory. I don't mention it purely to irritate Alastair with my taste for trivia, but also because it came minutes before he shepherded us into an administrator's office and gave us a well-deserved telling-off. There had been a *minor* Labour wobble following questioning about the privatisation of air traffic control, and this was threatening to become a "Story", instead of just a story (the latter lasts a day or so and then fades; the former goes on interminably while everyone examines every word, nuance and dustbin). Campbell reminded us (in sorrow, not anger) of our democratic duty.

I rather agreed with him then, and I rather agree with him now. On Tuesday night he made a speech, about the relationship between the printed press and broadcasting media, that urged broadcasters not to follow a news agenda created by the newspapers. He loved newspapers, he said, but there were things that they did not do that broadcasters should – and things that newspapers did that no one should do. The end result was gossip, trivia, a lack of proper explanation, a skewing of stories and a "delusion" about what the country was interested in.

The Government, and particularly No 10, is a bit frustrated at the moment. It feels that its good news – such as what appears to be the extraordinary success of the New Deal in cutting youth unemployment – is completely ignored. At the same time, it has lost three ministers recently, amid classical journalistic feeding frenzies, and has endured a month of baiting over perks and flights. The Prime Minister has cause to be particularly miffed that he went to South Africa and made a very statesperson-like speech about when to intervene militarily, and all the British press could ask him about was Charlie Whelan (Charlie? Used to work for Gordon Brown, now a newspaper columnist. OK?).

Messrs Campbell and Blair are also very worried about Europe. In the major years, the issue of the EU was hijacked by the Eurosceptic press, whose agenda (though not necessarily their views) was then followed by radio and TV. On Tuesday, Campbell



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Labour has done little to encourage the type of journalism it says it wants to see more of

gave the example of the recent Vienna summit, which was said by the BBC to be "overshadowed" by the issue of tax harmonisation. In reality, he pointed out, it wasn't. But harmonisation had been the great scare run by the *Daily Mail* et al in the previous fortnight.

One day – soon, probably – Blair knows that he and the bankers Europhobes of *The Sun*, *The Times* and the *Mail* are going to fall out in nuclear fashion. In those circumstances, as they press Portillo redux on a resisting *colonne*, the PM will need the BBC to be telling its own tale of Europe, not that provided by two-thirds of Fleet Street. And it is essential that he speak directly to the country.

Campbell is not a silly man. When he accuses the press of being driven by trivia and of an "evasion of the real state of Britain", he knows also that

readers are a problem. I began this article with the lusting woman journalist because I calculated that some of you, who have got this far, may have done so because of her. Nor is this to be deprecated. We all want a tale. As the late Raphael Samuel pointed out in his book, *Theatres of Memory*, the people's history tends to be a series of stories, narratives of gory and disastrous happenings, rather than a statistical analysis.

Nevertheless, the alternatives to pure story creation have been atrophying in recent years. When I first worked on the cerebral (and not over-watched) *Weekend World* programme in the early Eighties, there was a corps of specialist newspaper journalists that one could call upon. There were experts on welfare, health, the law, and transport. There were even local government specialists who understood how councils were financed; now no one does. Campbell is right to stress the importance of encouraging explanation through such specialists.

But he may care to reflect that Labour itself has, for far too long, been riding the back of the tiger. Much Westminster trivia originates with the politicians, and their minions, themselves. They habitually trot up and down the press corridors, indulging in *mane* gossip about each other and about the Tories. And it was Tony Banks and Margaret Hodge who really helped to give the despicable anti-Hoddlie handwagon a shove, before the PM's own remarks on *This Morning*. Likewise, the "tough" spin on the asylum and welfare stories in the last couple of days seems to owe

something to a desire to grab *Mail* and *Sun* headlines.

And Alastair may also want to ask himself just how much he has done to encourage the journalism he says he wants to see. How has, say, *The Independent* been treated when compared to *The Sun*? Have the serious TV current affairs shows received the co-operation they need? When I was editor of *On the Record*, I waited in vain for nearly two years for the shadow employment secretary to come and explain himself (live and unedited) on my show. His name was Tony Blair.

So are we now going to see more of Gordon on *Newsnight*, more Prezza on *On the Record*, more Prime Minister on *Jonathan Dimbleby*? Will priority be given to specialist journalists asking hard policy questions, rather than to briefing the hacks in the lobby? Can we expect to have constant encouragement for those who seek to facilitate a robust debate, and a little less time for those who can't even spell the word "debate"?

Above all, will the Government take us all a bit more into its confidence, and accept the intellectual challenge of discussing rather than spinning its policies? Campbell is right about cynicism in the press, and I can assure him it is *not* as bad among broadcasters. If he is sincere in wanting an intelligent discussion, and not just an easy "Aa" (and I believe that he is), then both he and his boss will have to start taking a few more risks, putting it about more. And if he does that, then – just perhaps – even I would be willing to sleep with him.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This marks an end of a something-for-nothing welfare state."
Tony Blair,
Prime Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The British love permanence more than they love beauty."
Sir Hugh Casson,
British architect

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
International comment on the German government's new policy on citizenship

its gates to refugees from ex-Yugoslavia?
Le Monde, France

THERE IS support within the SPD for the Christian Demo-

crat position on dual nationality. The SPD is saddled with a government that has to work with Green demands, rather than genuine Social Democrat issues. Schröder probably

thought that it would be best to deal with Green issues at the beginning of the legislative period; that's when governments are at their strongest. But he cannot have suspected that these issues could cause such rapid and lasting damage.
Die Welt, Germany

EVERY COUNTRY has a right to debate the questions of what constitutes belonging, loyalty and citizenship. It may be better to have the mainstream

conservative opposition raising the issue than to leave it to an extremist fringe, even though racism forms an undeniable current in the stream of opposition. The point, though, is that the Christian Democrats are wrong. Setting limits on immigration is one thing; allowing foreigners to move to your country and then keeping them as second-class citizens is another. That is unjust and in the long run untenable.
The Washington Post, US

THE MILLION people who signed the Christian Democrats' petition reject dual nationality as a general rule. They will not accept the Free Democrats' model, even if this would allow dual nationality only for a limited period. The change of government in Hesse has made a deep impression on the coalition. Social Democrats already appear to be distancing themselves from their revolutionary Bill. They will not give in completely until

they realise that the CDU and the CSU will not waver.
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

THIS REFORM is astonishing. But it does conform with a country that is home to a multicultural society; it has had to appease the dramas that have arisen from the matter of immigration. Germany has shown that she knows how to be generous: what other western European country has opened

PANDORA

DESPITE THE mugging of the former Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, on Clapham Common last October, the open spaces of south London hold no fear for the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who regularly goes jogging in Battersea Park. Mr Straw revealed details of his venturesome exercise routine to MPs this week at the Home Affairs Select Committee police recruitment hearing, when he observed that police patrolling required a high level of physical fitness. The committee chairman, Chris Mullin, quipped: "You probably qualify, running round Battersea Park." The Labour MP Martin Linton was sceptical. "I've yet to see you," he said jealously. "I've got witnesses," protested Mr Straw, surely referring to the privately run Wandsworth Borough Parks Police, who have replaced the boys in blue in patrolling the area.

PADDY ASHDOWN, the outgoing Lib Dem leader, has hit upon a cunning wheeze to occupy those who are anxious to fill his shoes. He is devoting many of the huge number of invitations he receives to the leaders-in-waiting. Such invitations include the opening of school fetes and an offer for Paddy to appear in a pop video. There is now a vast number of Lib Dem MPs who are ready to scrap amongst themselves for crumbs from the captain's timetable. Pandora's inquiries have found that the list of wannabes runs to a football team. The 11 are: Jackie Ballard; Malcolm Bruce; Menzies Campbell; Don Foster; Nick Harvey; Simon Hughes; Charles Kennedy; David Rendel; Matthew Taylor; Phil Willis; and a late entry from Eastleigh MP David Chidgey, who was "coy" on the leadership bid, according to his local paper.

PROFESSOR ANDREW LINZEY, holder of the world's first academic post in theology and animal welfare, at Mansfield College, Oxford, has had an unwelcome encounter with a dog, Linzey, who outraged Church traditionalists by penning liturgies for animals, was bitten by a resident at Battersea Dogs' Home while filming a programme for the BBC. Nowhere in his book, *Animal Rights*, does it say anything about

prayers for animals who bite others. Has the dog-lover missed a trick? "I think some things are worth discussing but not others," Linzey dryly told Pandora.

PANDORA DID not realise that the theory of evolution applied to competitions. The latest issue of Prospect magazine features a piece by Geoffrey Miller, which won the Vivus/Prospect prize of £5,000 for the best essay on sexuality from an evolutionary angle. The judges included Helena Cronin, who runs the Darwin Centre at the LSE. Miller, an evolutionary psychologist at University College London, often lectures at the Darwin Centre. One of the joint runners-up was Oliver Curry, "administrative assistant" at the Darwin Centre. Cronin told Pandora: "I didn't want it to look as if I was pushing Darwinian themes, so I waited to hear what the other judges thought first. I was delighted that Miller and Curry entered the competition and particularly delighted that they won." Pandora supposes this is what is called natural selection.

THE GREAT and the good have all been invited to special showings of the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy in London. But last Friday, at a gathering for the accountants Ernst Young, one of the sponsors of the exhibition, the gallery was evacuated after a reported water leak. A spokesperson for the Royal Academy told Pandora: "A fault occurred in the control system and the gallery immediately closed. It was reopened the following morning." The spokesperson was keen to point out that: "It was not so much of a leak as a drip." And in which room did this drip occur? "The Venice room."

TRUE COLOURS, a report published by the Institute of Public Policy Research on racial discrimination, has generated an instant response. In the report, the author and Independent columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown argues that the law cannot tackle racism on its own. New Scotland Yard is certainly curious to hear why. It was first to call for a copy.

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail at: pandora@independent.co.uk

Oh no, we've been modernised



SUE ARNOLD
Bankers, film stars, drug dealers and wide boys live in Chelsea these days - ordinary families don't

HOW, I wonder, will this week's gloomy news from Brussels affect our rent, which is coming up for review any day? I fear the worst. Inner London, according to a new Eurostat survey, is now the richest region in Europe, generating two-and-a-half times more wealth than the EU average. That must include me.

I've lived in Chelsea man and boy - well, two men, three boys and three girls, to be precise - for the better part of 30 years in the same cramped fourth-floor (no lift) flat above a shop that I moved into as a penniless student. There were four of us, a law student called Hugh, an art student called Richard, a young journalist called Hamish (that's Hamish McRae, by the way) and me, and we all paid £5 a week rent.

Don't worry - this isn't going to be one of those down-memory-lane exercises with me binding on misty-eyed about the good old days when the King's Road still had a fishmonger, a greengrocer, a pet shop and a spit-and-sawdust pub called The Markham Arms where the Kray brothers drank. I am feeling misty-eyed - The Markham Arms is now a branch of the Abbey National.

I tell you all this to demonstrate that Chelsea, despite its raffish reputation (greatly exaggerated), was once an ordinary place where ordinary people like us could afford to live. When, in the fullness of time, I moved into the master bedroom, having married the law student, the others moved out. This left room for a lodger, a serious young woman called Vera from Düsseldorf, who

sold space for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and ran a nursery. Every five years or so they put the rent up, but not by much - they being a series of increasingly dubious landlords, the last of whom demanded that the rent be paid in used notes or a cheque made out to Lucky Logic Holdings (Isle of Man). The building fell into disrepair. We, being nearest to the roof, became used to the rain dripping sometimes pouring through the kitchen ceiling via the electric light fitting, but this was preferable to life in Flat One, which bore the full brunt of the building's archaic plumbing.

There was the memorable evening when Mary Lou, one of the four Pan Am air hostesses who lived in the bottom flat, staggered upstairs too traumatised to speak coherently. They had all been away on long hauls for a week. She was the first one home. "Oh my God," she blurted. "Come and see." I came. I saw. I blanched. Someone's S-bend or P-trap, possibly Flat Two's, had packed up, and a week's worth of sewage from three flats had backed up into Mary Lou's lavatory and was

now seeping menacingly along the corridor towards the kitchen.

We all put up with these minor irritations because we liked living in Chelsea. My second husband said there would be more space in Wimbledon, but you get used to Zone One, and besides, the children were at local schools. And then 10, maybe 15 years ago, everything changed. The first intimation that things were different became apparent when the lights on the stairs were turned off because Lucky Logic had failed to pay the electricity bill and done a runner owing heaven-knows-how-much to the Right Hon Lord Whatsit who owned the head lease to the entire block.

Overnight we were modernised. The 82 concrete stairs leading to our front door were carpeted, the walls were painted, the roof was fixed. Most significantly, our security of tenure as tenants was withdrawn. We were no longer in Fair Rent territory, and the market had changed - boy, how it had changed - because Chelsea had changed. There were still families down the road, but if they were in flats they were coun-

cil flats, and if they were in houses, the houses cost upwards of £3m.

Bankers, film stars, drug dealers and wide boys live in Chelsea these days - ordinary families don't. In the Fair Rent days, I kept the pram and the children's bikes in the hall, and hung the washing on our landing to dry. The fire escape ladder was perfect for underwear. Visitors said it looked very Italian. Frank, the 85-year-old ex-bomber pilot downstairs, loved having a family upstairs. Last year Frank died, and his flat became vacant, and Lord Whatsit wants £600 a week for it - unfurnished - and yuppie foreign bankers are trudging incredulously up three flights of stairs ("What no elevator?" to view it. Yesterday, after several warning letters about health, safety and vermin, the bicycles downstairs and the washing, football boots and toy boxes on our landing were seized and impounded in a mews off Sloane Square.

Inner cities, even the richest in Europe, need families. Families need understanding landlords. Besides, a Chelsea flat with Continental ambience and lingerie should fetch more than £600 a week, surely?

In Britain, nothing is ever as simple as black and white



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
When Reggie Kray writes a letter to Mrs Lawrence expressing his shame, it must mean something

I WISH I had become a luscious cookery guru instead of a worthy "race expert", which makes dinner parties (if indeed I am ever invited to them these days) such unsettling occasions. Two questions recur in various forms. Is racism really that much of a problem in this country? Yes. Are things getting better on the race front? Yes.

You see, both realities do coexist and cannot cancel each other out. The Lawrence report, the British Crime Survey and piles of other evidence on discrimination hold up mirrors close to our faces so that we can see theblemishes.

There are areas in this country where there is unspeakable despair among black and Asian people. But today, because of the Lawrence inquiry, for the first time since the racist killing of Kelso Cochrane in Notting Hill Gate in London in 1959 - when thousands of white people turned up at the funeral - there is a real willingness to change things. When Reggie Kray writes a letter expressing his shame to Mrs Lawrence, it must mean something. This is what makes the situation in Britain so complex, and why the majority of Britons avoid engaging with it. Many black and Asian people, wounded as they are by racism, would prefer it if there weren't too much distracting talk of progress and harmony. Most white people would just love it if we got out of the habit of moaning when in pain and became more "positive" (God, how I hate that word).

But even this is simplistic. Tory black and Asian Britons tend to be much more irritated by anti-racists than white people. And there are thousands of white Britons who are committed to fighting racism.

Exactly 20 years ago this spring Blair Peach died for this cause when he was bludgeoned to death by

a specially constructed police baton as he was out demonstrating against the National Front in Southall in London. It has been ever thus. As CLR James, a Trinidadian and one of this country's finest intellectuals and writers, wrote in 1938: "The blacks will know as friends only those who are fighting in the ranks beside them. And whites will be there." So nothing is as simple as black and white. It never was, and is still less so today when this small island kingdom is grappling with the very essence of nationhood as it comes to terms with devolution. Further integration into Europe and the wider implications of globalisation. Against this backdrop, then, we need to become more politically and socially literate. We need to understand our complex, multi-tudinous society; to create a more relevant discourse, to tell new stories for what we might be if only we could liberate ourselves from the comforts of old habits and plain beliefs. We should expect more, too, of our leaders, who should have steered the ship better.

Fifty years after the Empire Windrush landed on these shores and four centuries after the first racist utterances about immigration were made by Queen Elizabeth I, right-minded white and black citizens have reason to ask why we have been governed so poorly that young men feel it is patriotic to kill someone just because his skin is of another colour. Why should we tolerate such fissures? Why are we allowing the country to lose out on the talents of bright young black and Asian graduates? No wonder so many of them laugh away the integrationist dreams of their parents.

Last night, BBC TV repeated an experiment first carried out 10 years back, when hidden cameras were used by two intelligent, articulate men - one black and one white - to test whether direct racial discrimination still existed. It was filmed in Leeds. We saw that in some situations the black man got worse treatment than his white colleague, and heard a foul-mouthed taxi driver holding forth on "smelly Asians" and race wars. Unlike those in the last programme, depressingly, these two investigators themselves ended up fighting each other, so wide was the gap between their perceptions.

This brings me to the theme of my new book, *True Colours*, published this week by the Institute for Public Policy Research, where I work part time. I plug it with an easy conscience because there are no royalties involved, and because doing so is marginally less distasteful than having a good friend promote or review it. Also, as the media itself cannot handle more than a couple of radical thoughts, I am giving you the bits you didn't get. I am suggesting to the Government that it should grasp this challenge and modernise the way race has been dealt with for half a century.



A true image of modern Britain

Andrew Buurman

New Labour is undoubtedly serious about race. Can you imagine Michael Howard, Michael Portillo et al initiating the Lawrence inquiry? But the past is too much with us, and the future is too limited in the way it is envisaged. Never before have we had three political leaders so committed to a diverse, cosmopolitan national identity that allows the various tribes of these islands to feel good about their ancestry. Ethnicity today is as important to the Scots as it is to the Muslims, and a good thing too, as long as it doesn't descend into xenophobia.

Let us shed the term "ethnic minority". It is meaningless, and implies that only linked people have an ethnicity and that all whites are the same. Let us expand the term "multiculturalism" to embrace even the English, poor dears, who have been mightily maligned for too, too long.

Let us break the foolish coupling of race and immigration. We have no evidence that, year on year, headline immigration laws have made for better race relations. Immigration poli-

cies need to be based on need not panic, and race should have nothing to do with it. Look at Silicon Valley. If its Indian computer wizards were to go home, the blossoms would vanish instantly.

Let the people of this country, black and white, be consulted on issues to do with race and immigration. They never have been, and on this - and only on this - point, Enoch Powell was right. Let us proclaim with pride what we have achieved together. At present, in some ways, real integration has overtaken our understanding of it.

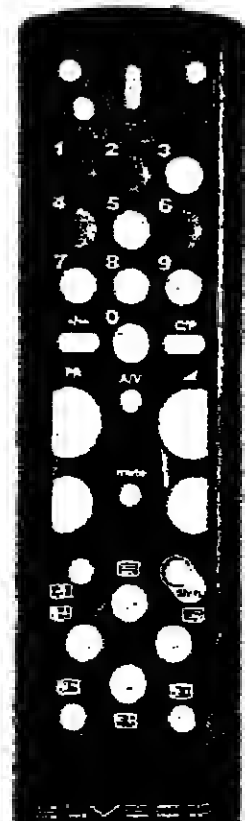
None of this can happen without leadership. As Michael Ignatieff puts it: "Racial attitudes, since they are an unstable mix of fears and fantasies, are especially susceptible to changes in the public culture. They are not a set of atavistic facts before which all politicians must kneel... racial attitudes can be changed." And if they are not, say goodbye to that cohesive, dynamic society we all wish we had and dream of having in the next millennium.

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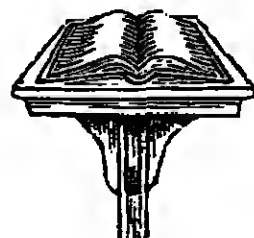
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The spread of contraception



PODIUM

GEORGE FOULKES
From a speech by the development minister to the United Nations Hague Forum on population

WHAT ARE our priorities for action? Nowhere is support more needed than for HIV/Aids, which threatens single-handedly to wipe out the development gains of the last three decades. The latest figures predict that 40 million people may be living with HIV by 2000.

Prevention must be the priority for the global response. We now know more than ever how to prevent HIV and we must continue to do more of what works: information, powerful enough to change behaviour, condoms, treatment for sexual infection and safe blood.

We must also intensify our efforts to get the science right and find both a vaccine and a female-controlled protection product such as a microbicide. These products, as with condoms and contraception, will need to be subsidised - from government and donors' funds - to ensure that poor people will be able to benefit from them.

Nowhere is the inequality and inequity between rich and poor, women and men more starkly illustrated than by the number of women who die

every year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth.

Let us be clear what the challenge here is: it is the right to life of 8 million women between now and 2015 and the right to survival and quality of life of their dependants.

Maternal mortality statistics are the barometer for the extent to which health systems do or do not function.

We must work to ensure that health sector development delivers improved maternal and other reproductive health outcomes. We need standards for the care women should expect and authoritative guidance on the functions that health systems should perform. While the so-called "population explosion" may be over, we should not forget that more than 1 billion young people - the largest generation in human history - are now entering their reproductive years.

It is the choices made by these young people that will determine the prospects for a fair, healthy and stable world fit for future generations. We must defend their right to be given a choice.

This includes helping them to make wise decisions, with-

out coercion, about when to commence sexual activity. It includes making sure that they have access to services and products to protect themselves against sexual infection and pregnancy if and when they do become sexually active.

In development, we talk about food security. With HIV prevalence as high as one in four in parts of urban Africa, reproductive health commodities, such as male and

female condoms, are basic needs. We know also that around 120 million couples are still unable to access the contraception that they want when they need it.

We need to make contraceptives and condoms - both male and female - easier to get hold of. If Coca-Cola can be everywhere in the developing world, why not these essential commodities? We think the notion of "contraceptive security" highly relevant to meeting people's sexual and reproductive health needs in the next 15 to 20 years or so.

So what does this mean for the way we work? First, coherence. International action directed to these priority actions must be coherent and it must be taken in concert. We need strong, United Nations system provides this, but we believe that its constituent parts could do more to work together as global champions on HIV, maternal health and contraceptive security. It is essential that we are able effectively to monitor the goals, the outcomes, agreed at Cairo. We believe that new objectives to

accompany the Cairo goals are urgently needed to intensify action to combat the progression of HIV. For example, what changes should we be aiming for between now and 2005, 2010 and 2015 in the proportion of young people infected with HIV?

And, last but not least, cash. There is no "something for nothing". Overall resource commitments have not met the expectations of Cairo. Delivering the Cairo agenda does depend on governments - both north and south - finding new resources for sexual and reproductive health. But we must be focused on outcomes and driven by what works best.

So, let's ensure that the report of the UN Secretary General agrees the kind of key future actions and practical measures needed.

We must adjust our horizons and our time-frames. We need to engage in partnerships over the next 10 to 20 years.

And let's be clear that while knowledge, know-how and good practice matter, progress is determined more by political choice and will.

The true face of America



MARY DEJEVSKY

If uncomfortable truths come out of Clinton's lying, he may unwittingly have done us a favour

TODAY, TOMORROW, at the very latest Saturday, America's year of laughing-crying agony will end with the acquittal of Bill Clinton on a new-fangled technicality: his poll-rated popularity. Only the second president of the United States to be tried by the Senate will be spared to serve out his term, and by a far wider margin than the single vote that saved his comrade in impeachment, Andrew Johnson, in 1868. Will Presidents' Day – which falls this week-end to commemorate the likes of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and John F Kennedy – ever be the same again?

As the US Senate nears its verdict, the dominant image is of an all-conquering Clinton, striding unscathed through a battlefield strewn with the corpses of his enemies: the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr; two House Republican leaders (one incumbent, one designate), a posse of influential Republicans who turned out to be preaching what they did not practise, and a string of women, among them Linda ("The Switch") Tripp and "Santa Monica" herself, whose reputations lie in shreds. The arrows rebound off the President to fell his attackers instead.

Already, the United States is drawing conclusions from all this, but they are not necessarily the right ones.

It is taken for granted that Kenneth Starr and his ilk will not ride again. The Independent Counsel Statute, introduced after Watergate to prevent presidents flouting the judicial process, will be allowed to lapse when it comes up for renewal in June. To Clinton supporters, both the office and its holder were at fault. The office, because it seemed to place a member of the judiciary in judgement over the President, a task reserved by the Constitution for Congress. The holder, because Starr was seen as over-zealous, intruding into areas, such as the President's sex life, that Americans regarded as private.

The fact is, though, that there is no real need either to jettison the independent counsel or to criticise Starr. The system functioned as it was intended to. Richard Nixon was on the fast track to removal through the constitutional process



At the end of his Senate trial, one is left to reflect how well suited President Clinton is to today's America

Win McNamee/Reuters

when forced to resign. His dismissal of the special counsel investigating him may have delayed his departure; it did not prevent it.

Similarly, the existence of the independent counsel and Starr's handling of the Lewinsky investigation may have delayed Clinton's survival, but they did not prevent it. The President's fate was left in the hands of the US Congress, where the Constitution said it belonged.

Because Starr's office appears doomed, his handling of the case will also be written off. But the evidence he unearthed and the conclusions he drew were not contested by the White House or by Democratic politicians. Four out of five Americans say they believe that Clinton committed perjury and obstructed justice – the charges in the two Articles of Impeachment against him.

The verdict of Americans is split – guilty but worthy of office – and it will be effectively ratified by the Senate. The contradiction calls into question the other legal change that is likely to follow the trial: the mammoth Supreme Court ruling that a sitting president may be sued in the civil court. That ruling required him to defend the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones. It led directly to the subpoena for Monica Lewinsky, and the rest is about to be history. If challenged in future, the Supreme Court may choose not to argue again that the distraction to a president from such a lawsuit is outweighed by the principle that all citizens have the right to redress through the courts.

Where Clinton is concerned, Americans may accept such a change. But it sacrifices a principle that the US has stood for from its foundation, a principle much cited by the prosecutors in the course of the Senate trial: a president is not a king; no one is above the law.

Forsaking this principle may not precipitate the dire consequences prophesied by the gloomy representative from Illinois, Henry Hyde, who asked whether "an America will survive that is worth fighting for", but it is a moment worth marking. It could make Clinton the last president not to be above the law – largely because Americans decided that he should be. They believed him guilty as charged, but loved him all the same.

For some – mostly on the left – the President's acquittal means that the impeachment process should never have been started, because the offences were "all about

sex". Impeachment has been "defined downwards"; henceforward, they argue, it will signify Congressional disapproval and nothing more. For others – mostly on the right – it means that the Senate was too lenient. If Congress will not remove the President for breaking his oath to uphold the law, what president can ever be removed from office, for anything? In their view, it is the presidency that has been "defined downwards" and will never again wield moral authority.

Clinton's impeachment is being blamed for causing this divide and for the descent of politics into party-political warfare. But the divide is nothing new, nor is the incivility; impeachment merely exposed it.

The one institution that is deemed to have survived with its dignity intact is the Senate. But this

is precisely the conclusion that should not be drawn. The Senate was every bit as divided on impeachment as the House, but Senators had the luxury of retreating behind closed doors to hammer out their differences. The Senate was barely criticised for such secrecy. But the truth is, that the institution is badly out of touch with urban America, and that senators are just as adept at ensuring their own survival as any other politicians.

The fiercest condemnation of the Senate's verdict is coming, predictably, from the right, which warns that acquitting Clinton will change America profoundly for the worse. They hold out the prospect of a moral decline in all areas of public life, which will also undermine the US's authority in the world and, above all, harm "our children".

In truth, though, the impeachment trial and its outcome change nothing. They have simply held up a mirror to America, and if Americans do not like what they see, they had better get used to it, because the reflection is true.

There need be no degradation in public life, because it is not now beyond reproach. Power and money talk; people lie under oath; juries are nobbled. The sexual harassment laws will not be compromised by the President's conduct, because they were already compromised. While the prosecution argued that any chief executive or military officer would be out on his ear if he behaved as Clinton did, those in the know say he would not. The number of senior executives and officers removed for such offences is minuscule, and the more senior the offender, the more likely he is to survive.

To be sure, candidates for the presidency next time around may be asked probing questions about their private lives. But the lesson from Clinton's impeachment is not, as many are warning, that an imperfect past (or even an imperfect present) is a disqualification from office. It is rather that almost any indiscretion is now survivable, even lying – especially if no one believed you in the first place.

The US's image abroad will not suffer unduly from Clinton's acquittal, because the world has long been more sceptical of US motives and authority than have Americans themselves. And since when have her children been so innocent? Middle-class parents may have been embarrassed and their children may be the most protected in the world, but they are also among the most precociously knowing.

The overriding message from Clinton's acquittal is not that the US will never be the same again, but that it may be more honest about how it really is. And if some uncomfortable truth-telling comes out of Bill Clinton's lying, he may unwittingly have done his country a favour. Until then, we can only reflect how very well suited Clinton is to today's America – and America to him.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MARTIN BARNES



The director of the Child Poverty Action Group reacts to yesterday's article by Alistair Darling on welfare reform

THE BENEFITS regime is tough already; don't make it tougher. CPAG agrees that for those who want to and are able to work, paid employment is a route out of poverty. But work is not, and should not be made to be, an option for all – there must also be genuine security and dignity for those without paid work. The issue of the adequacy of benefits should be addressed by Alistair Darling, not ignored. Benefits can help prevent poverty: even if the causes are many and complex.

At first glance, many people may see no problem in requiring claimants to attend an interview to discuss work. But there are dangers, not least in the attempt by the Government to act and sound "tough" on claimants. The statement by Tony Blair that Labour's welfare reform will end the "something-for-nothing welfare state" is simplistic and, quite frankly, offensive. The insensitive language and media spin risk reinforcing negative stereotypes.

There are already many barriers to claiming benefit – the process can be humiliating and degrading. The prospect of means tests, medical examinations and home visits to check domestic arrangements fills many people with dread. Benefit rules themselves are detailed and complicated, with regulations running to hundreds of pages. No one receives benefit unless an official is satisfied that they are entitled to it – there are many hoops to jump through.

The proposal for a new "gateway" interview will work only if it is adequately funded. The Benefits Agency is already saying that it cannot deliver the high-quality service promised in last year's Welfare Green Paper. With compulsion, you can get away with delivering an inferior service. The benefits regime is tough already; don't make it tougher.

Our debt is to Bilbo, not Plato

DAVID GRESS'S book is a staggering attempt to rethink the whole of human history. Patchily brilliant and profoundly perverse, it poses as an intervention in America's "culture wars" but far transcends that parochial context, offering us something much wider, much deeper and much darker.

Gress's aim is to re-examine the history of "the West" and what the idea of a "Western tradition" has meant to its supporters and enemies. The conventional story was, he suggests, an idealised history of continuity, of unfolding freedom and democracy from ancient Greece to the present western European and north Atlantic world. Hence the title – intended to be ironic, though it also borrows from the late Brian Redhead's useful little history of political thought.

This "grand narrative of the West" is all wrong, says Gress. Assuming continuity from the ancient Greeks to modern Natopolis, historians of ideas have mistakenly ignored everything between. He feels able to dismiss virtually everyone who has pontificated on the idea of the West, from Arnold



THURSDAY BOOK

FROM PLATO TO NATO: THE IDEA OF THE WEST AND ITS OPPONENTS
BY DAVID GRESS.
THE FREE PRESS/SIMON & SCHUSTER, £17.99

Toynbee or John Gray to Vladimir Havel, as historically ignorant and philosophically inept.

The real "Old West", he says, did not begin with the Greeks, but evolved from Roman, early Christian and, crucially, German sources about 1500 years ago. The stress on ancient Germanic tribes as the main source of our ideas of freedom was popular in the 19th century and, according to Gress, was unfairly discredited by the anti-German prejudice fostered during the world wars.

He seeks to rehabilitate it, and places German thinkers – often anti-democratic and romantic-nationalist – at the heart of his history of thought. This German-centred view of world history involves Gress in some very strange arguments indeed.

Because the conventional story was so inaccurate, it was – Gress goes on – all too easy a target for lefties, feminists, multiculturalists, post-modernists and other villains. By offering a better history, Gress believes he is also providing a stronger defence against such attacks. Yet his depiction of everything he thinks "anti-Western" is a crude and often silly caricature. Environmentalism is merely "the green superstition", invented by devious ex-Marxists. Post-modernism has no other meaning than "to sow further confusion by combining anti-capitalist and antimodern resentments" into "a barely camouflaged anti-Western ideology".

Perhaps oddest of all, what Gress calls "the anti-Fascist mindset" from the 1930s onwards was a disguise for pro-Sovietism, so that even to use the word "Fascism" reveals one as a Stalinist. This is palpable nonsense. Probably the most influential of all modern theorists of Fascism has been the German Ernst Nolte, an ultra-conservative whose later writings shied close to apologies for Hitler.

In an even stranger move, Gress avoids the label "Nazi" because it is a "derogatory acronym". Well, God forbid that anyone should want to be "derogatory" about Hitler's movement, but the abbreviation has been used by almost all historians. Gress is not, of course, some sort of crypto-Nazi himself; he makes the proper noises of support for democracy and disgust at anti-Semitism.

We do, though, get a very peculiar new pantheon of intellectual history



Gress provides us with a hobbit's-eye view of history

here. There are, bluntly, almost no Jews or left-wingers in it (except Marx, as ultra-villain) and no women or non-whites. This is a German intellectual world with ultra-rightists and ex-Nazis such as Ernst Jünger, Oswald Spengler and Martin Heidegger at its centre, but with no mention at all of Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin or Karl Popper. There's not the slightest hint that figures such as Frantz Fanon, WEB DuBois and Rabindranath Tagore might have had something important to say about the idea of the West.

Gress's only comments on non-Western history are (to use his own abusive language) just ignorant clichés about Islam and China. He gestures towards the value of "macro-historical" structural analyses such as those of Jean Baudrillard and Ernest Gellner, but does not use them.

Gress is a fellow at the Danish Institute of International Affairs, a Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, in Philadelphia, and co-author of a history of West Germany. Another of his past achieve-

ments, though, may provide a better clue to his world view. He is, it seems, the leading translator of JRR Tolkien into Danish.

For all the book's bowing to ideals of liberty and rationality, it is Tolkien's Nordic-Germanic fantasy world of gods, heroes and magic that most shapes Gress's imagination. He argues that the "Grand Narrative" tracing Western development is a myth. He is right; but he has substituted an even less plausible narrative – one that runs from Beowulf to Bilbo Baggins, taking in right-wing German romanticism on the way. I'll cheerfully admit to being a Lord of the Rings fan since childhood and even to quite liking Wagner. Yet, if being part of "the West" has to mean identifying with Gress's idiosyncratic version of a cultural inheritance, his disdain for other traditions and his ferocious anti-egalitarianism, then count me out.

STEPHEN HOWE

The reviewer's book 'Afrocentrism: mythical pasts and imagined homes' is published by Verso

THURSDAY POEM

TRIOLET

BY EMILY PFEIFFER (1827-90)

Warm from the wall she chose a peach,
She took the wasps for councillors;
She said: 'such little things can teach';
Warm from the wall she chose a peach;
She waved the fruit within my reach,
Then passed it to a friend of hers: –
Warm from the wall she chose a peach,
She took the wasps for councillors.

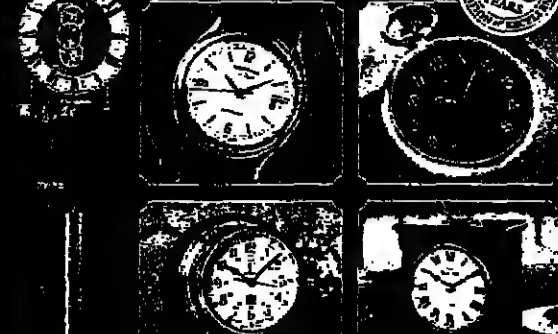
Our poems until Friday come from the new paperback edition of 'The Penguin Book of Victorian Verse', edited by Donal Karlín (Penguin, £10.99)

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Bryan Mosley

AS THE roly-poly shopkeeper and local councillor Alf Roberts, Bryan Mosley contributed much to *Coronation Street's* success in portraying a sense of community in a Northern backstreet.

He was one of the television serial's longest-serving actors, making occasional appearances during *Coronation Street's* first decade and becoming a cast regular in 1972. He was last seen in the *Street* earlier this year, on New Year's Day, when Alf died quietly following a stroke.

The character first appeared as a Post Office colleague of Ken Barlow's father, Frank. He went on to win respect in Britain's most famous television street, in Weatherfield, a fictional suburb of Manchester, as a local councillor and as owner of the corner shop, which has always been one of the main centres of social interaction in the programme.

He twice served as Mayor of Weatherfield - in 1973, when the landlady of the Rovers Return, Annie Walker, accepted his invitation to be Lady Mayoress, and in 1994, when one of the pub's barmaids, Betty Williams, took over as First Lady after his wife, Audrey, found the routine of official functions too boring.

Strait-laced Alf was married three times in all. Six years after the death in 1972 of his first wife, Phyllis, who was never seen on screen, he exchanged vows with Renee Bradshaw, who owned the corner shop in *Coronation Street*, and he took early retirement from his job with the Post Office the following year to help her there. When she died in a car crash in 1980, Alf inherited the shop and ran it until 1994. His only concession to modern times came when he turned the shop into a mini market.

It appeared to be third time lucky in love for Alf in 1985 when he married Audrey Potter, mother of Gail Platt. But, with a reputation for being careful with money, he was unprepared for Audrey's shopping sprees and lack of help with his business. Alf's ultimate penny-pinching measure was taking out "term" life assurance, which ran out only a short time before his death.

Bryan Mosley made Alf one of the most enduring and sympathetic characters in *Coronation Street*, even though he came from the other side of the Pennines himself. Born in Leeds in 1931, he was brought up in a working-class district of the city. As a child, he modelled for clothes catalogues and made his stage debut at the age of 10 as the back end of a cow in a production of the pantomime *Cinderella*.

Instead of pursuing his childhood ambition to become a missionary, Mosley won a scholarship to Leeds College of Art (1944-46) and then worked as a commercial artist. In an effort to earn more money, he left that job to work in a bookshop and later sold books door-to-door.

Then, while doing National Service in Scotland, with the RAF in Air Traffic Control (1949-51), he started acting at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews. This led him, after demob, to train at Bradford Civic Theatre (1952-54) under Esmé Church, whose other students included Tom Bell, Robert Stephens and William Lucas. Mosley then toured with the New Pilgrim Players, putting on plays in churches, abbeys, pubs and prisons, before working in repertory theatre in York, Perth, Derby and Harrogate.

'There's a lot in Alf that's not been explored on screen. He probably reads Tolstoy, but it's never been shown'

While in Perth, Mosley was able to put to use the fencing skills he had learned in the RAF to direct the fights in a production of *Othello*. He did the same at the Theatre Royal, York, for *Henry IV*, and taught fencing in schools around Leeds.

As well as acting in feature films such as *A Kind of Loving* (1962), *Billy Liar* (1963), *This Sporting Life* (1963), *Rattle of a Simple Man* (1964), *Privilege* (1967) and *Charlie*



Mosley as Alf Roberts, *Coronation Street's* roly-poly shopkeeper, with his wife Audrey, played by Sue Nicholls. Granada TV

Bubbles (1967). Mosley fenced with Terence Stamp in *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1967) and fought on a rooftop with Michael Caine in *Get Carter* (1970), which brought a nasty end for his character.

As a fight director, he coached such stars as Robert Hardy and Tom

Roberts in *Coronation Street* in Episode 18, on 16 February 1981, just two months after Tony Warren's serial began. He continued to appear on and off for the next two years and, as a councillor friend of Len Fairclough, returned as a semi-regular in 1987. Five years later, when the character's wife Phyllis died in the storyline, Alf Roberts became a permanent fixture in the *Street*.

Alf's contribution to local affairs was honoured with his appointment as OBE in the Queen's 1995 Birthday Honours List. One of the character's most humorous storylines came with the race to get him and his wife, Audrey, to the ceremony at Buckingham Palace on time. Don Brennan threw Audrey out of his mini-cab on the drive to London following an argument, with the result that Alf asked Betty Williams - waiting outside the Palace - to take his wife's place alongside him. Audrey, not one to miss a chance to mix with dignitaries, never lived this event down.

As an actor, Mosley felt that Alf was sometimes regarded as a bit dull. He once told me: "There's a lot in him that's not been

explored on screen. There's something of a fighter in Alf. He was in the Army during the war and probably had quite a difficult war. He's still interested in the weapons of the 1940s. All that has been glossed over. Part of the way I play him is that he has this experience behind the staid image. He has been to strip clubs with Ray Langston and Ernest Bishop, and he had a girlfriend called Donna Parker that no one in the street, only viewers, knew."

I don't go along with Alf about a lot of things. I don't spend time in pubs - it's a tremendous waste of time. He has a very limited outlook on travel and is never seen to read. I'm sure he does - he probably reads Tolstoy - but it's never been shown.

During the Sixties and early Seventies, Mosley accumulated many other television roles in popular programmes such as *The Plane Makers*, *The Saint*, *Z Cars*, *The Avengers*, *No Hiding Place*, *Emergency* - Ward 10 and *Doctor Who*. He played three short-term characters in *Crossroads* (1966-67), a policeman in *A Family at War* (1970) and the landlord of a block of flats in the first two series of the situation comedy *Queenie's Castle* (1970-71). He also performed alongside Arthur Haynes, Harry Worth and

Dick Emery in their television shows and with Morecambe and Wise in a commercial for the brewers Watney's, as well as using his stunt skills to swing from a huge chandelier, sword in hand, in an unscreened advertisement for a cereal.

Mosley appeared with the *Coronation Street* cast in the 1989 Royal Variety Performance and was the subject of *This is Your Life* in 1997. At the 1989 American Television and Radio Commercials Festival he was awarded a Special Performance Citation for an advertisement he appeared in for Albert's Crisps.

In recent years, he was dogged by ill-health, suffering a heart attack in 1987 and respiratory problems 10 years later. These problems were mirrored in heart trouble for Alf on screen and eventually led to the decision to retire him from *Coronation Street*.

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Bryan Mosley, actor, born Leeds, West Yorkshire 25 August 1931; married 1956 Norma Bowes (three daughters, three sons); died Shipley, West Yorkshire 9 February 1999.

Wassily Leontief

His economic system embraces the household sector: the inputs of households are consumer goods and the output is labour supplied to other sectors



THE COMPANY of economists who met at Adam Smith's graveside in Edinburgh to pay honour to the great man on the bicentenary of his death in 1990 was a remarkable one. From the United States came Franco Modigliani, Laurie Klein and five Nobel prize-winning colleagues. The British contingent was led by the late Sir James Meade, Sir Alan Peacock and Professor Andrew Skinner. Outstanding both in lecture and talk was a bustling, dynamic figure with a great deal to say: this was the irrepressible Wassily Leontief.

On emigrating to the United States in 1931, his interest was narrowly focused on the development and refinement of input-output analysis. He was a promoter of the importance of raw data, which he used to show how the economy is broken into sectors. By systematically recording the flows of goods and services among industries, he explained their inter-relationships. Few doubted that in 1973 he deserved a Nobel prize for pioneering the field of input-output analysis.

Leontief was born in St Petersburg, as it then was, in 1906. His father was a university professor who coached him from the age of three. Wassily was admitted to Leningrad University in 1921 at the age of 15. His early studies were carried out against the background of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the civil war which dominated the years 1918-22, thereafter causing a period of slow economic recovery in Russia.

Leontief said that he was sympathetic to the revolution and described

himself in those days as "a socialist of independent views, which differed from those of the Bolsheviks". It could be no surprise to those who knew him later that he spent some time in prison. He was a natural member of the awkward squad. In 1923, after a chest infection which nearly killed him, he left Russia for Berlin, taking advantage of family connections.

Once there he worked with the economic historian Werner Sombart, later the author of a best-selling book, *Why There is No Socialism in the United States* (1970). He also worked with the statistician Ladislav Bortkiewicz. This relationship was crucial to his later development and to the paramount importance he gave to statistics. Bortkiewicz had also published (in 1907) an early solution to the so-called "transformation problem in Marxist economics".

His time in Berlin instilled in Leontief a healthy scepticism of Communist economics. In 1927, he moved to the Institute of World Economics at Kiel, a period to which he attached enormous significance as he did some work on demand and supply.

There in 1929, a chance conversation in a cafe with a party of Chinese visitors led to an offer of employment as advisor to the Minister of Railways in China. Leontief spent a fascinating year in southern China planning the railway network. This required him to travel throughout the country collecting data. In Edinburgh, he described his return to China 40 years later: his earlier experience gave him a wonderful capacity to compare old China and Mao's China. His heroes

were enthralled, as he was a marvellous raconteur.

In 1931, Leontief received an invitation to join the National Bureau of Economic Research in New York. He quarrelled with a member of the faculty - Leontief's quarrels were colourful - and moved within months to the economics department at Harvard. At the beginning, his colleagues were less than enchanted but they soon realised that what was to be his lifelong research on input-output models was innovative and highly relevant.

By the time he moved to the US, Leontief had a clear notion of what he wanted to do and of the data required. However, it was only 10 years later during the Second World War that his monograph on the American economy was published.

The economic system it describes embraces the household sector, not as a recipient of consumer goods

produced to satisfy final demand, but as an integral part of the model. Households, Leontief saw, form an additional sector or industry; the inputs of households are consumer goods and the output is labour supplied to other sectors. Investment and savings were similarly incorporated in the system.

If a sector was making a net investment its expenditure exceeded its revenues, while for a sector making net savings revenue exceeded expenditure. A separate saving coefficient was established for each sector, such that total expenditure was equal to total revenue divided by the coefficient. Sectors making a net investment was to have a savings coefficient of less than one (expenditure exceeding revenue). Sectors making net savings - the household sector for example - would have a coefficient in excess of one.

During the war, Leontief worked

for the US Treasury under the direction of Henry Morgan Ford, Jr and went with him as one of his advisors to the Bretton Woods Hotel in New Hampshire where his boss, along with Maynard Keynes, outlined the economic system of the post-war world.

My first memory of Leontief was when I and other Cambridge undergraduates were told by our supervisor, the late Harry Johnson, to attend a lecture by one of the most innovative economists of the day. It was not just the undergraduates who went. There sat Nicholas Kaldor and Richard Kahn, Dick Stone and Sir Dennis Robertson, Piero Sraffa, Austin Robinson and Joan Robinson. Later in the week, at Robertson's political economy club, the students had the benefit of the glittering conversation between Robertson, some of his colleagues and Leontief.

In 1975, having reached the age of 70, Leontief moved to the Institute of Economic Research specially created for him by New York University. Here he could work on practical solutions to practical problems and radical approaches to the changing challenges of the world.

He was a prolific writer, displaying demonic energy all his life. Among his famous books are *Input-Output Economics* (1966) and *The Structure of the American Economy 1919-1929* (1941). At the age of 80, he produced the *Future Impact of Automation on Workers* (1986) and his contribution to economic and scientific journals flowed and flowed.

He played an important role in the debate in the US on economic planning. Along with Leonard Woodcock

of the AutoWorkers Union, he was co-chairman of the Initiative Committee for national planning. In the Congress, legislation was proposed by Senators Humphrey and Javits to create an Economic Planning Board and a council on economic planning.

Leontief himself was cool about the particular form of legislation, which in his view concentrated too much on the elimination of unemployment and too little on planning the structural shifts which would inevitably take place as a result of technological advance. However, for all Leontief's caution, the then vice-president, Hubert Humphrey, when I visited him in 1965, opined that Wassily Leontief had contributed more than any of his contemporaries to economic action at government level in the US.

However, Leontief wasn't simply concerned with America. He was the leading contributor to a seminal document with Anne P. Carter and Peter A. Petri on "the future of the world economy" in 1978. It gave practical advice to primary producers and developing countries. As Amartya Sen, Master of Trinity and himself a Nobel Prize winner in Economics, put it: "Wassily Leontief was one of the most innovative economists with a deep interest in the real world."

TAM DALYELL

Wassily Leontief, economist, born St Petersburg 5 August 1906; Professor of Economics, Harvard University 1946-53, Henry Lee Professor of Political Economics 1953-75; Nobel Prize in Economic Science 1973; married 1932 Estelle Marks (one daughter); died New York 5 February 1999.

Bryn M. Jones

BYRN M. Jones was a leading biologist, an accomplished artist, and a man of charm and warm humanity. It was these qualities he brought to the then University College of Wales, Aberystwyth ("Aber") when appointed to lead the Department of Zoology in 1961. His vision and enthusiasm matched the spirit of the now long-lost, post-Robbins age of the 1960s and 1970s. He glimpsed enough of the more troubled days following the first draconian financial cuts in 1981 to retire, he recently reflected, a little late.

His younger days at Edinburgh University convinced him that a relaxed, tolerant and considerate approach to students would maximise their success. Thus, he realised the opportunity in "Aber" to transform the rather staid department from its focus on traditional natural history with a few selected Honours students, into a large multi-discipline, vibrant centre with 40 or more third-year students and a well-balanced range of modern courses.

Jones instituted tutorials and an "open door" availability of staff to students. He encouraged get-togethers at his favourite Gregynog University Study Centre, in the Department and, with his wife Irwen, at his Plas Gwyn home. Students were always to be treated with respect and Bryn was especially sympathetic to their crises during examinations.

He was born in Breconshire in 1916 and was educated in Merthyr County School where initially he studied the humanities and fine art in the sixth form before switching to science and taking a Zoology degree from Cardiff in 1939. His outstanding skill at that time as a rugby union centre, captaining Welsh Schools and the British Universities teams, was never fully developed because of the Second World War.

The war took him initially to a reserve occupation making explosives at the Drigg Government Mills in Cumberland, then to the Royal Naval Medical Branch as a Lieutenant. Following specialist training in entomology at Cambridge, Jones went off to India and Ceylon to fight mosquitoes (malaria) and harvest mites (scrub typhus).

He was demobbed to the Anti-Locust Centre in London but his days at Cambridge had whetted his appetite for academic and he took a 25 per cent pay cut to secure a lectureship in Edinburgh. He became a leading figure in entomology and gained his DSc in only four years. In the late 1950s, from his studies on the tanning of lipoprotein membranes in insect moulting and under the influence of Michael Swann (later BBC Chairman) and Peter Mitchell (Nobel Laureate), he recognised the growing importance of cell biology.

In Aber, he rapidly made significant contributions to the study of the role of cell adhesion and movement in vertebrate development. By the 1970s, using novel immunological techniques, his group was making pioneering discoveries on the interaction of the cytoskeleton with the plasma membrane in cell adhesion, a field that is ever expanding to this day.

A talented artist, Jones was influenced by the modern movement of the 1930s and his work was sufficiently large and varied to justify a post-retirement exhibition in the University Gallery. The East was one influence, from his first vivid watercolours of Singaporean fellow seamen from his Navy days, to spiky drawings of the Madras seafarers in the 1980s. In between were other "periods", especially a persistent "microscopist-abstractorist" phase of migrating and adhering cells transformed into abstract patterns, which would then decorate the corridors of the department and whose inspiration he would explain with characteristic hand waves.

RICHARD KEMP
AND RICHARD HINCHLIFFE

Bryn M. Jones, cell biologist, born Cefn-coed-y-cymmer, Breconshire 6 November 1916; Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Zoology, Edinburgh University 1947-61; Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1961-83; married 1942 Irwen Rowlands (two sons); died Penrhytymoch, Aberystwyth 16 January 1999.



Battlefield wounds

THORA CRAIG'S long life was dedicated to the relief of suffering and the promotion of principles that pre-date many of today's more selfish imperatives. It was a life that changed the nursing profession to a remarkable degree.

She was born in 1910, the daughter of George Silverthorne, a South Wales miner and a founder member of the British Communist Party. Her faith in the virtues of co-operation and comradeship remained rooted in the values of the coalfield.

She trained as a State Registered Nurse and in 1936 joined the Inter-

national Brigade in Spain. She pioneered new ways of treating battlefield wounds, often working in dangerous circumstances. The courage of the republican forces inevitably led to heavy casualties. Hundreds a day were treated and Craig's comrades in uniform voted to promote her to matron. Ever after she was an honoured guest at veterans' reunions, unveiling memorials.

The culture of the College of Nursing - the forerunner of the Royal College of Nursing - precluded membership of a trade union. Appalled at the way nurses were being

coerced into working longer hours for less pay, with a handful of colleagues Craig set up the Association of Nurses, the first trade union for hospital staff, in 1938. Small in number but unconventionally outspoken, the association was subjected to fierce criticism in the professional press.

But nurses recognised the strength of Thora Craig's arguments for better pay and conditions - and hence improved patient care - and took to the streets wearing masks to hide their identity from hospital administrators. They signed up in droves and Craig later led her asso-

ciation into the National Union of Public Employees, now subsumed into Unison. As Secretary of the Socialist Medical Association she was a leader of a delegation that met Clement Attlee to discuss the establishment of the National Health Service by the 1945 Labour government.

Thora enjoyed a long and happy marriage to Nares Craig, a radical architect and fellow Communist. Their efforts to support those in trouble were unremitting. In 1968 their daughter Lucy was one of the Guildford Art School students sitting in to protest at the quality of education

being offered by Surrey County Council, then dominated by City men and retired senior army officers. Thora and Nares threw their considerable intellectual and practical weight behind the students and the seven lecturers sacked for supporting them; three years later the lecturers won reinstatement.

Craig's experiences in the Spanish Civil War maintained an influence throughout her life. One sunny autumn day in 1982 when she was in Cardiff for the unveiling of a simple memorial to the men of the International Brigade, she told me: "As soon

as I arrived in Spain I was told that red crosses were never displayed on hospital tents because the wounded and those tending them were a favourite target of Franco's war planes." At the Lord Mayor's reception that followed the unveiling, "The Internationale" was sung. It was sung again at Thora Craig's funeral.

TONY HEATH

Thora Craig, nurse, born Aberystwyth, Monmouthshire 25 November 1910; married 1948 Nares Craig (one son, two daughters); died London 17 January 1999.

Bryn Jones

Ruby Mercer

RUBY MERCER, American-born, Canadian by adoption, had two quite distinct careers. In her youth she trained as a music teacher, then became a singer and appeared successfully as a soprano at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, on Broadway and in opera houses and concert halls across America. She spent a year under contract to MGM in Hollywood, though she never actually appeared before the cameras. She also broadcast frequently, and became a radio personality, hosting 13 shows each week, including the popular *Mr and Mrs Opera* on WNYC.

After her marriage to a Canadian businessman, Mercer moved to Toronto, where she founded, and for 30 years edited, the quarterly magazine *Opera Canada*. She also founded the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and wrote two excellent biographies of Canadian singers: *The Tenor of his Time* (1978), a life of Edward Johnson, the Toronto-born tenor who was manager of the Metropolitan Opera from 1935 to 1950; and *The Quilicos* (1991), about the baritone Louis Quilico, his wife Edna, a pianist, and his son Gino, also a baritone.

Ruby Mercer was born in Athens, Ohio, in 1906. A founding, she was brought up in the house of a choir-master, where music and singing were part of everyday life. After training as a music teacher at Ohio University, she took a job in Honolulu, but did not stay there long, as a visiting singer from England heard her sing and recommended that she become a professional.

Mercer enrolled at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and after graduating, obtained a scholarship to the Juilliard School in New York. While singing Zerkina in a student performance of Stravinsky's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, she was heard by Edward Johnson, who had just become manager of the Metropolitan, and who arranged an audition for her.

Having made her professional debut as Nannetta in *Fulstuf* at Philadelphia, Mercer made her Metropolitan debut on 6 June 1936 as Nedda in *Pagliaccio*, obtaining excellent reviews. The following season she sang Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust*, and prepared Violette in *La Traviata*, though she never got to sing the role as the opera house closed owing to a heat wave.

Ruby Mercer was a very handsome woman as well as a fine singer with a beautiful voice, and in 1937 she was tempted to Hollywood by MGM; but no parts were forthcoming, and it

turned out that the studio was merely using her to force Jeanette MacDonald to renew her contract at a more reasonable salary.

Returning to New York, she sang at Radio City Music Hall, and in 1940 appeared at the New York World Fair in *The Gay New Orleans Revue*. She also sang in three shows on Broadway, including in 1941 Offenbach's *La Vie parisienne*. Throughout the 1940s she toured the North American continent in opera, operetta and musical, appearing in such shows as Sigmund Romberg's *New Moon* and Oscar Straus's *The Chocolate Soldier*, as well as *La Bohème* and *Die Fledermaus*. Her career on radio also flourished. When in 1958 she married Geza Poz, a Hungarian-born businessman from Toronto, the second, Canadian half of her life began.

She found little opera in Canada, and even worse, little awareness of opera, so she set about changing matters as quickly as possible

Ruby Mercer found little opera in Canada, and even worse, little awareness of opera, so she set about changing matters as quickly as possible, envisaging a magazine on the lines of *Opera News* in New York. The first number of *Opera Canada* was published in spring 1969. At first limited to reviews on opera performances in Canada, and to news about Canadian singers at home and abroad, it grew steadily in size and scope, including a section of opera reviews world-wide. I became the UK correspondent in 1973, but did not meet Mercer face-to-face until 1983. By then, through countless letters and phone calls, we had become firm friends. She was a most stimulating companion, she had been everywhere, she knew everybody in the opera world.

An intrepid traveller, who made expeditions to Africa, South America, China and such faraway places, Mercer



Mercer broadcasting a radio review programme in the mid-Fifties

planned many summer trips to European festivals, but she was accident-prone, and these trips did not always materialise. Once she was badly burned in Kenya when she stepped in a hidden fire-pit. She did come to Europe in 1988, visiting London, Glyndebourne, Vienna, Bayreuth and Salzburg, as well as Budapest, in order to visit her husband's relations. She revisited Hawaii, where she got the idea for the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, founded in 1968 with 40 children, a number that has now grown to 160.

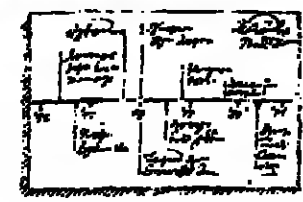
On another trip to Hawaii she met the composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who had appeared on her radio show *Mr and Mrs Opera*, and commissioned him to write a children's opera for the CCOC. The result, *Chip and his Dog*, was performed at the Guelph Spring Festival in 1979.

She continued to broadcast frequently in Toronto, on CBC and CFMX.

She even made a stage appearance as Princess Bozema in Kaiman's *Countess Maritza* at Toronto Operetta Theatre in 1986. Meanwhile honours and awards rolled in: in 1983 the Canadian Music Council Medal; in 1986 the Governor of Ohio's Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts; in 1988 a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Toronto Arts Awards; and many more. In 1990, at the age of 84 and exactly 30 years after founding *Opera Canada*, Ruby Mercer retired as editor. She became a Canadian citizen the following year, and in 1995 was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Ruby Mercer, singer, broadcaster and magazine editor, born Athens, Ohio 26 July 1906; OC 1995; married 1958 Geza Poz (deceased); died Toronto, Ontario 26 January 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

IAN OUSBY

A poisoned memory of occupied France

WHEN HE looked back on the Second World War, what struck Jean-Paul Sartre most was the gulf separating the British and the French experience: the past "which fills London with pride was, for Paris, marked with shame and despair".

Fifty years on, any British account of the Occupation still has to begin by accepting that the ordeal of being occupied is so alien as to be almost unimaginable. It is not for us to make easy judgments. The French themselves have long since abandoned the consolations and evasions they embraced immediately after the event. Since the indictments of René Bousquet, Paul Touvier and Maurice Papon, few people can believe in the old myth of a nation of *résistants*.

The speed and completeness of the German victory in June 1940 left the French in deep shock. If France could fall so easily, surely Britain would be next? Realism counselled that France come to terms with the New European Order imposed by the Nazis. In this spirit people turned to Pétain's Vichy government, reassured by the Marshal's record in the First World War but nourished also by the self-abasing impulse of the defeated to criticise not the victors but themselves. Communists, Jews, Freemasons, trade unionists fell victim to a regime that marched in step with German witch-hunting and sometimes even

went ahead of it. Vichy landed up doing the Germans' dirty work for them.

Even so, resistance was slow in coming - strikingly so, if we compare France's record with what happened in Greece or Yugoslavia. It was 14 months before the first German soldier was killed by *résistants*. For the French to turn against their occupiers, they needed long disillusionment and new hope. The food shortage combined with increasing German brutality to create disillusionment. Hope came first from Britain's continued survival and then, more emphatically, from the setbacks met by the previously unstoppable Wehrmacht in its invasion of Russia.

After resistance had ceased being an "absurd refusal" and become a matter of backing the likely winners, it remained small-scale and disorganised. It was usually inefficient, always badly equipped and all too often divided by hostilities from pre-war politics. It never looked like the powerful underground army of which some exiles round de Gaulle in London and Algeria had dreamed. De Gaulle himself assigned it a small, and largely symbolic, role; he wanted it to play a long game, waiting prudently until the Allied landings came. The death of *résistants* on the Plateau de Glières and Mont Mouchet, and the killing of bystanders in reprisal, demonstrated the terrible price which rash-

ness continued to pay, not just while the Allies were preparing for D-Day but even after they had secured their beach-heads in Normandy.

However weak it may have been against the occupiers, the resistance showed a deadly determination in hunting down their servants and the servants of Vichy, particularly the hated *milice*, or "French Gestapo" that had attracted thugs like Touvier. The settling of accounts brought France close to civil war. To avert it, she needed not truth but the chance of reconciliation offered by de Gaulle's healing myth that the whole of France had combined to oppose the Germans. At the time, the fiction infuriated *résistants* who knew full well they had always been a minority and for much of the time an unpopular minority.

Today it is clear that selfishness, bigotry, cowardice and even private malice featured as prominently in the record of the Occupation as courage or idealism. They left a "poisoned memory" that still lingers. But - to return to Sartre's antithesis between Britain's pride and France's shame and despair - this does not mean we should feel superior. In such an ordeal, who can claim they would have done better?

Ian Ousby is the author of *Occupation: the ordeal of France, 1940-1944* (Pimlico, £12.50).

Giuseppe Tatarella

GIUSEPPE TATARELLA never tired of explaining that he was not a Fascist. Thirty-plus years as a member of the neo-Fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano, and the post-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale party which he helped to create would seem to give the lie to this, but Tatarella was adamant: "I am a nationalist, a Catholic and a democrat," he said in his last interview, which appeared in *Il Giornale* the day after his death.

His choice of political affiliation, he insisted, was due not so much to right-wing leanings, but to his strong anti-Communist sentiments. It must have hurt, therefore, when, as Communications Minister in the short-lived government led by Silvio Berlusconi in 1994, he was snubbed by an EU colleague who refused to shake his hand, and when Italo-Israeli relations

grew chilly because of his presence in the administration.

In Italy, this genial, dishevelled politician, his glasses forever perched on his balding pate, encountered fewer prejudices. He was credited with being the marmoset behind "la svolta", the turn-around which took the MSI out of the political doghouse and into the parliamentary mainstream in 1994 when the party was transformed into the Alleanza Nazionale. He was dubbed "Minister of Harmony" for his tireless mediating between the squabbling parties which made up Berlusconi's government. "He was a friend, a loyal ally, and a champion of the moderate, democratic right," said Berlusconi.

Tatarella was born in Cerignola, Puglia, a "red" enclave in Italy's poor south-east, and it was there that he took

his first political steps, heading the local extreme-right youth movement in the 1950s and 1960s, and moving on to become the secretary of the regional branch of the MSI. In 1970 he was elected to the Puglia regional council and in 1976 became an MP, retaining his seat in parliament ever after. After his stint in government, he became Alleanza Nazionale whip in the Lower House.

In the 1960s, he founded the weekly *Puglia D'Oggi* ("Puglia Today"). In 1986 he took over the Naples-based daily *Il Roma*, which he edited until his death.

Unfazed by severe cirrhosis of the liver brought on by viral hepatitis, the indefatigable Tatarella continued his editorial work and political battles as he waited his turn - never pulling any strings to move up the waiting list, said his surgeon Mauro Salizzoni of the

Molinette hospital in Turin, under whose knife Tatarella died - for a liver transplant. In his final interview, this right-wing moderate talked of "going beyond the *Polo per la libertà*", the centre-right alliance grouping of Berlusconi's Forza Italia, Alleanza Nazionale and myriad smaller parties, to attract the support of centrally-inclined wavering voters.

"I want to push ahead at all costs with my political work," Tatarella confided to Dr Salizzoni before suffering a heart attack. "I'm quite calm about this transplant: it will be the beginning of my rebirth."

ANNE HANLEY

Giuseppe Tatarella, politician and journalist, born Cerignola, Italy 17 September 1936; married Angela Filippotto; died Turin 8 February 1999.

Forces compensation scheme was lawful

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

11 FEBRUARY 1999

Regina v Ministry of Defence, ex parte Walker
Court of Appeal
(Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice Chadwick and Sir Christopher Staughton)
5 February 1999

THE APPLICATION by the Ministry of Defence of a discretionary *ex gratia* scheme to compensate service personnel for criminal injuries suffered abroad, by which an exclusion for injury or death resulting from war operations or military activity by warring factions was applied to UN peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, was not unlawful.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the applicant's appeal against the dismissal of his application for judicial review of a decision of the Ministry of Defence to refuse him compensation under its Criminal Injuries Compensation (Overseas) Scheme for serious injuries he suffered whilst serving as a United Nations peacekeeper in Bosnia. The discretionary *ex gratia* scheme had been introduced in 1979 to compensate members of the armed forces who, through no fault of their own, were injured abroad as a result of crimes of violence. The purpose of the scheme was to provide comparable levels of compensation to those which would have been awarded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board had the injury been caused by a crime committed in Great Britain.

In a Parliamentary statement in December 1994, the minister of state said that compensation was not payable where injury or death occurred as a result of "war operations or military activity by warring factions", and that current operations in Bosnia obviously fell into that category.

The applicant's injuries were caused by a single round fired

into an accommodation block by a Serbian tank. The respondent rejected the applicant's claim for compensation under the scheme.

The applicant appealed against the dismissal of his application for judicial review on the ground that, although the respondent was entitled to determine and formulate the criteria it wished to govern the *ex gratia* scheme, its application of the scheme in his case was unlawful.

Lord Justice Auld said that the exclusion of compensation for injuries resulting from war operations or military activities by warring factions from a scheme intended to compensate for criminal conduct necessarily contemplated that criminal conduct could take one of those forms, otherwise there was no need for its exclusion. The fact that the applicant was engaged in a peacekeep-

ing operation rendering an attack on him by a warring faction an international crime was, thus, nothing to the point. Even if there were some lack of precision in the formulation of the exclusionary criteria, the Ministry's interpretation of it in the circumstances of the applicant's claim was not so aberrant as to be irrational.

There was no irrationality in the Ministry's adoption of the scheme. The purpose of the exclusion was to produce as nearly as possible some parity in the recovery of compensation for crime by military personnel abroad with that available to those injured by crime at home. It sought, therefore, to remove from the scheme a feature peculiar to the life of a member of the armed forces abroad in a theatre of war or where there was military activity between warring factions, namely the risk of injury from warfare behaviour. Moreover, the Ministry was entitled to develop the scheme with the problems of the type posed by Bosnia particularly in mind, just as it was entitled to take the view that the circumstances in Northern Ireland were materially different from those in Bosnia.

The suggestion of unfairness in the failure to notify the applicant before he went to Bosnia of the precise terms of the scheme as amended in 1994, and its implications for him, was unfounded. It was difficult to see what action the applicant could and would have taken to ameliorate its possible consequences for him had he appreciated the precise effect of the scheme before going to Bosnia.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, presents the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace. The Princess Royal, as Chancellor, London University, also attends. Prince Edward, Patron, attends the London Mozart Players' 50th Anniversary Concert in the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1. The Princess Royal opens the Adolescent Unit of the Middlesex Hospital, London W1. Princess Margaret, Patron, visits the Peckham Settlement, London SE15. The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Computer Society, attends the BCS Information Technology Awards 1998 at the Royal Society, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Richard Allan MP, 33; Sir John Arbutnot, former MP, 87; Sir Ronald Aulus, former diplomat, 76; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Berger, former Ruler, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 74; Professor Marilyn Butler, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, 62; Mr Bevan Congdon, cricketer, 61; Mr Christopher Dearnley, organist, 69; Mr Patrick Leigh Fermor, writer, 84; Sir Archibald Forster, former chairman and chief executive, Esso UK, 71; Sir Vivian Fuchs, Antarctic explorer, 91; Mr William Fullerton, former ambassador to Morocco and Mauritania, 60; Mr Bryan Gould, Vice-Chancellor, Waikato University, New Zealand, 60; Miss Anne Gregg, broadcaster, 59; Mr Win Griffiths MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Welsh Office, 56; Mr Michael Jackson, chief executive and director of programmes, Channel Four, 41; General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 59; Mr Leslie Nielsen, actor, 73; Miss Mary Quant, fashion

designer, 65; Mr Burt Reynolds, actor, 63; Baroness Sharples, former director, TVS, 76; Mr Dennis Skinner MP, 67; Miss Kim Stanley, actress, 74; Mr John Surtees, motor and motor-cycle racing champion, 65; Mr E.W. Swanton, sports writer and BBC commentator, 92; Miss Mary Treagar, art historian, 75; Mr Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, Iceland Group, 53.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Elizabeth of York, Henry VII's queen, 1465; William Henry Fox Talbot, photographic pioneer, 1800; Auguste Ferdinand François Mariette, Egyptologist, 1831; Thomas Alva Edison, inventor, 1847; Joseph Leo Mankiewicz, director, producer and screenwriter, 1909; Farouk I, King of Egypt, 1920.

Deaths: Joanna II, Queen of Naples, 1435; Elizabeth of York, Henry VII's queen, 1508; Sir John Buchan, first Baron Tweedsmuir, governor-general of Canada, and novelist, 1940; Sergei

Mikhailovich Eisenstein, film director, 1948; Sylvia Plath, poet, 1963.

On this day: The Miracle of Lourdes occurred, when St Bernadette had her vision of the Virgin Mary, 1858; the first weekly weather report was issued by the Meteorological Office, 1878; the Lateran Treaty established an independent Vatican State in Rome, covering 108 acres, 1929; Margaret Thatcher became the first woman leader of a British political party, 1975; in South Africa, Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years, 1990; the Queen agreed to pay tax on her private income, 1993.

Today is the Feast Day of St Benedict of Aniane, St Caedmon, St Gregory II, Pope, St Lazarus of Milan, St Lucius of Adrianople, St Pascal I, Pope, Saints Saturninus, Dativus, and Others and St Severinus of Aganum.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Mark Haworth-

Booth, "Zen and the Art of Henri Cartier-Bresson", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Oliver Collins, "The Role of Drawing: Matisse, Picasso and Braque", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Drawing and the Glories of 17th-century Rome", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: George Curry, "Charles Dickens's Great Expectations (II)", 1.10pm. Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey: Professor Euan Nisbet, "Geology and Creation", 5.30pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Lynette Hunter, "Risk-taking in Reading", 1pm.

LUNCHEONS

Middle East Association Mr Stephen Evers MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was the guest of honour and speaker at the Annual Luncheon of the Middle East Association held yesterday at the Hilton Hotel, London W1. Mr Richard Owens, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presided.

HAGGERTY ENTERPRISES Inc's complaint about my innocent quoting of Lorrie Moore's brilliant reference to somebody's blood moving "around his face and neck like a lava lamp" brings to mind Peter Cook and Virginia Woolf - an odd couple, who would be sure-fire clients for Relate. The word *lava* prompted

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

lava, n.
Woolf to write in *The Waves* of "the speed, the hot molten effect, the *lava* flow of sentence into sentence that I need."

And *lava-lava* is a Samoan skirt, first noticed by Robert Louis Stevenson: with it, nothing is worn above the waist. Peter Cook, affecting the voice of a stripper's manager, once rang the BBC to ask why it would not book his artistes but had in fact just broadcast the Ipi Tombi dancers in front of the Queen Mother.

Must I be a slave to a bleeper?

Valerie, an experienced freelance on contract, has been offered a bleeper by her bosses so that they can contact her when they want to. She has a phobia about using it. Nor does she want a mobile phone ringing all the time. Does anyone else feel the same way?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

If a quick check among my friends is anything to go by, beepers are extremely unpopular. They go off with a piercing ring, and then you have to access a message from your office, which usually demands your reply as soon as possible.

If you're not near a telephone at the time, this can send your blood pressure soaring. I was once on holiday with someone who had a beeper. Just as we were walking across the moors in Scotland, the blessed thing went off. We had to curtail our walk and hurry to the nearest phone, only to find that it was some piddling message from a secretary asking whether my friend had an address that she wanted.

Apparently, if you're worried about a beeper going off in a quiet place you can put it on "vibrate", which means that in the middle of the theatre, or wherever you happen to be wearing it, it can suddenly wiggle violently against you. Personally I'd find this as unacceptable as having the man next to me at the movies moving his knee close to mine and rubbing it along my thigh.

Anyway, Valerie says she doesn't want to have to wear this thing all the time. Presumably she has some kind of clothes sense, and, unlike a lot of men, who adore being weighed down

by gadgets and heavy key rings, she values the line of her dress or the cut of her skirt and doesn't want it spoiled by a horrible bit of black plastic.

Everyone I asked about beepers winced, and they all gave the same simile. "It's like being one of those tagged prisoners," they said. "You can't go anywhere without someone being able to get at you." If Valerie isn't a member of staff, I can't see why she should have to wear one, if she fulfils her contract in every way without one.

Life today is highly invasive, with unwanted faxes, unsolicited e-mails, junk mail, pizza offers through the letter-box, cold calls, and unwanted callers at the door. If you work in an office, the telephone is manned first by a switchboard and then, probably, by a department secretary. Working on your own, you have no defence, no castle walls. I have got to the point myself when, at home, I keep my answering machine on permanently. I screen every call and answer them only when I care to. Every-one else I ring back at my leisure.

I think Valerie should buy herself a mobile not let the office buy it; then she'll be beholden. She could keep it switched off when she's with other people. I'm appalled at the number of people I meet who, in the middle of a meal, suddenly reach into their ringing handbags and conduct

long conversations with invisible people in front of me.)

She could also turn the mobile off when driving, if she were worried that the ringing would distract her.

But it sounds to me as though she never wants to be contacted out of the blue. So I suggest that she buy a mobile, but keep the number to herself and never turn it on except to access messages hourly from her home answering machine. That way, she's entirely in control of the situation.

If she tells her office, in no uncertain terms, that this is how she operates, they may gulp a bit, but it's unlikely that they'll push the issue. And Valerie will feel that she's in charge.

And soon she may realise that a mobile phone need not always be a tyrant. It can also be a slave.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Don't let it rule your life. No, you're not phobic, just sensible. In your place I would feel exactly the same, but then, BT's Friends and Family winds me up so much that I'm thinking of leaving the scheme.

Can you come to an agreement with your company that the beeper will be on for a few hours a day when you are working at home? Then make a point of turning it off at personally inconvenient times? Or you could break the thing - drop it, leave it in a tunnel, give it a bath. But stand firm - you're being perfectly reasonable; it's the others who are strange.

STEPHANIE M SEILLIER
Barnet, north London

A beeper can be an asset. Rather than feeling threatened by her beeper, Valerie should welcome the freedom it gives her - she can go missing without having to tell anyone where she's going and without feeling guilty about possibly missing important work calls. And outside acceptable working hours, she can always activate the "off" switch for beeper-free baths.

She may even find that she becomes attached to it as a useful means of organising her social life - it can be used frivolously by friends as well as demanding by bosses. And it's so much cooler than a mobile phone - fellow passengers on buses and trains

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

need not be bothered by the intricate details of your life, and it's up to you whether you return your messages (you can deny all knowledge and claim to have been on the Tube at the time).

If all else fails, Valerie, put it on "vibrate" and relax.

CM
London

I know just how Valerie feels. As a junior doctor I totally sympathise with your correspondent over her beeper. When I started the job nearly four years ago I received my beeper and a rota of one

night in four on call. I am a poor sleeper anyway, but although I was in no way superstitious (I even walked under a ladder on the day of my driving test), I believed that as soon as I turned the light off, someone would be sure to call, and so I spent several months sleeping with the light on.

But it does get much easier. And while it is nice, just occasionally, to fantasise about throwing the beeper against the wall, I know only one person who really has dropped it down the toilet.

CAT THOMPSON

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My brother was a talented artist but he never made a name for himself because he refused to sell any paintings. Before he died a year ago, I promised him that his talent would not go to waste; I would bring his pictures to as wide an audience as possible.

The problem is that there are more than 300 canvases, mainly abstracts, which aren't fashionable. Many are huge, therefore less saleable. And no one has heard of him. Storing them costs £4,000 a year. With difficulty, I have managed to sell about

six at auction. I lie in bed tossing and turning with guilt that I'm unable to fulfil my promise. Do you have any ideas about what to do with these pictures? I just cannot throw them away. Yours sincerely, Angie

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, "The Independent", 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet.



Formal dress is required at the Freemasons' conferences Stuart Freedman/FSP

So you want to be a Freemason

We know about the secret handshakes and aprons. But what do Masons actually do? By Chris Arnot

The heavy door through which I am ushered is marked "Strictly private". I had expected nothing less from one of the 7,600-plus lodges in the British Isles, you have to be male. Masons tend to go to monthly lodge meetings straight from work wearing suit, collar and tie. They usually carry with them a little case. Each contains an apron to tether around their woolen-worsted girths. The plain leather version worn by the medieval stone mason has evolved into something altogether more ornate. Mr Garnett snaps open his own case to reveal a lambswool number fringed with turquoise plastic, decorated with Masonic symbols and enhanced by two rows of metallic tassels.

"We're not a secret society or a society with secrets, but we are a private society," says Alan Garnett, 52, provincial secretary for East Lancashire, who greets me on the other side of the door with a warm grasp of the hand.

I'm testing his grip for the probing thumb or the crooked little finger. But as I have never been initiated into the rituals of the Masonic handshake, what I'm feeling for is not immediately apparent. A surreptitious downward glance confirms that the bottom half of Mr Garnett's immaculate dark suit is firmly in touch with his shoes.

"I've rolled up my trouser bottoms three times in 30 years," he confides.

On each occasion he was passing through one of the initiation ceremonies on the way up the Masonic hierarchy, from apprentice to craftsman to master Mason. The ranks, like many of the symbols of Freemasonry, are based on the guilds of medieval stone masons. Hence the requirement to make oaths of allegiance "on bare and banded knee" (medieval masons wore breeches). Hence the blood-thirsty threat, abandoned as recently as 1986, that anybody transgressing those vows would have his throat cut, his tongue removed and his bowels fed to the birds. And hence the handshake. It enabled a master to know at first greeting whether an itinerant mason had served an apprenticeship.

"We use it only on ceremonial occasions and when visiting other lodges," Mr Garnett assures me. "I shook hands with someone in the street the other day and my wife asked if he was a Mason. I told her honestly that I didn't know."

Wives and Freemasonry rarely mix, but they are invited to social occasions such as the annual ladies' evening.

Women are employed in the Freemasons' Hall as receptionists, waitresses and bar workers. But to be a member of one of the 7,600-plus lodges in the British Isles, you have to be male. Masons tend to go to monthly lodge meetings straight from work wearing suit, collar and tie. They usually carry with them a little case. Each contains an apron to tether around their woolen-worsted girths. The plain leather version worn by the medieval stone mason has evolved into something altogether more ornate. Mr Garnett snaps open his own case to reveal a lambswool number fringed with turquoise plastic, decorated with Masonic symbols and enhanced by two rows of metallic tassels.

Two other Masons are sitting around the table in the provincial secretary's office. One is Barrington ("I only answer to Barry") Wallwork, a retired motor trader from Stockport.

'We are not a secret society, but we are a private society'

The other is Norman Pickles, a retired sub-editor from the Daily Mirror's Manchester office who is now East Lancashire's press and public relations officer. A sign of the times. Press and public were kept at arm's length until the mid-Nineties, when a more open policy was decreed by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Unfortunately for the Masons, it didn't stop the steady stream of negative publicity. Last March, the Grand Lodge was forced to hand over to the Commons Home Affairs Committee the names of 16 members who were alleged to have been involved in a series of police corruption scandals. Four months later, the Lord Chancellor sent letters to 5,000 judges and tribunal chairmen asking them to disclose any links with Freemasonry. Only 4 per cent admitted to membership (although it was later revealed that the figure for male JFs was at least 14 per cent).

The suspicion, though, of a society of mutual back-scratch-

ers has done little to boost recruitment at a time when changing social trends have already taken their toll. Membership in East Lancashire is at 11,500 compared to 19,500 just 20 years ago. All the same, officials were taken aback when the Humphrey Chetham Lodge went it alone and placed that advertisement in the Manchester Evening News.

So what can they expect, those would-be Masons? A long wait in some cases. More than 20 men have applied for half a dozen vacancies, which suggests there is still a demand in contemporary Britain for all-male organisations with a strong sense of tradition.

But there are no short cuts to membership. Each newcomer must find two backers who are already Masons. He will also have to prove that he has no criminal convictions, motorist offences apart, and declare his faith in a "supreme being" (the Christian God in most cases, although there are seven books of holy law available to swear on). Mr Garnett's lodge meets in the Derby Suite, under a painting of Lord Derby. Members sit on red plush chairs and await their officers who parade in with a burst of organ music.

"It's usually churchified tunes, military marches or Pomp and Circumstance," says the provincial secretary, who is a bit of a dab hand on the keyboard. "Last week I played the theme from Titanic."

The lodge master takes his seat below Lord Derby's portrait. Minutes are read and guest speakers introduced. Recent talks have been on American presidents who have been Masons (plenty) and the Masonic link to the pyramids of ancient Egypt. There is also a steady stream of speakers from charities to whom the Masons are generous donors.

By now we are in a bar, waiting for our sandwiches. It's lunchtime and the place is hardly full. But as we go to sit down at one of several vacant tables, Mr Garnett suggests that we move to another room: "Somewhere a little more private."

Private, but not secret.

You Ask the Questions
Gerry Adams's replies to your questions will appear in next Wednesday's Review

POETIC LICENCE

BOB'S SMART CAR
BY MARTIN NEWELL

A leading transport expert, Professor Chris Wright, says that microprocessor devices installed in cars of the future may also act as policemen by keeping records of bad driving, fining us or, in extreme cases, even arresting us by locking us in our cars.



Good morning Bob
Your Ford Futura speaking
Monday/ Feb-thirteen/ Year 2010
Grenlin-tracker
Can't pin down that squeaking
Recommend clear boot out now and then

Exit seventeen you want?
You missed it.
Contraflow and tailback up ahead
Soothing sounds on system
Temper temper!
Bear in mind what Robomedic said

I'm sorry Bob
But "Dickhead" isn't proper
Fined 100 euro. Insult noted.
No use to dispute it Bob,
I word-searched.
Dig-dictionary has it quoted

Light was amber Bob.
Don't argue with me.
Jumping traffic lights endangers life.
Incidentally, Bob
Last weekend's "conference"
Female colleague was she? Not your wife

Not the smartest move Bob,
Really. Was it?
Driving while "distracted". An offence.
Had to shut you down Bob
It's illegal.
Video recorded evidence

Mandatory, Bob
They're standard features.
Steering-lock and seat-clamps all release.
After flashing lights
And pulsing hooter
Signal the attention of the police

Put it this way Bob
You're only forty
May remarry, find a job some day.
Sorry Bob, your phrase
Can't be computed.
Nearest substitute is: "Go away."



40 Weekends
in New York
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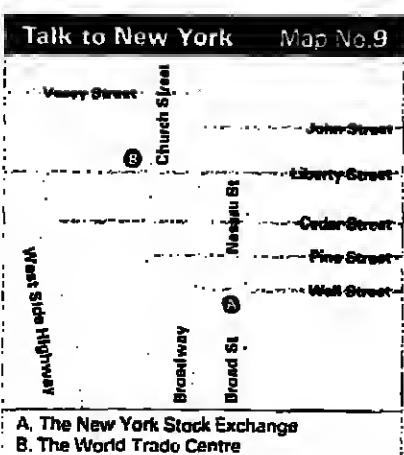
Talk Radio and The Independent are flying 40 pairs of winners to New York for a weekend in March in our 'Talk to New York' Competition. Throughout February there are 2 New York Weekends to be won every weekday.

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Tune to Talk Radio and listen for the Avenue and Street No.s for one of today's two locations, identify it on the map opposite and you could be a winner.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Trust her, it's important

Who needs hype? Barbara Kingsolver's novels become best-sellers by the back door. By Judith Palmer

Maybe because I'm a working mother, I am well aware you have got plenty else to do than read this book. Maybe it's Southern modesty, but I really wouldn't bother you if this weren't important," breathes Barbara Kingsolver, resting an index finger lightly on her new novel, *The Poisonwood Bible*. "That's how I come to my readers. I won't bother you, unless it's important. Trust me, it is." That's how I was raised. I was raised polite.

Over 10 years and eight books, Barbara Kingsolver has very modestly, very politely built herself the kind of reputation which writers don't go in for much nowadays – steadily accrued by word-of-mouth personal recommendation from one reader to another. No shoving her head in public. No posing naked behind a pile of her own oeuvre. Just one book after another, passionately written and passionately read.

I'd certainly never heard of Barbara Kingsolver when a friend frog-marched me into a bookshop in 1989 and insisted that I read her first novel, *The Bean Trees*. It's a vivid memory because, before or since, I've never had a book pressed into my hand with the same degree of joyous evangelical urgency.

"Everyone says that," Kingsolver laughs. "It's always: 'My mother, my sister, my friend, made me read you.' I didn't come to best-seller status through the front door, more through the basement."

It's been a slow climb for Kingsolver, but all that woman-to-woman enthusiasm has suddenly achieved critical mass. This week *The Poisonwood Bible* is sitting at number two in the American best-seller lists, having sold 40,000 copies in its first month of publication. The 43-year-old writer is incredulous.

"A challenging book like this, up there with Tom Wolfe?" she shakes her head. "I still can't believe it. Epidemiologically, my books have been read by women because that's where they were introduced and how they spread," she notes, revealing a hint of her earlier career as a biological scientist, "but now about a third of my mail comes from men."

Maybe the men feel reassured, now she's on an official list. I suggest, "I suppose it has a legitimacy," she nods. "It's not just that underground girtie thing." Kingsolver, who was born in a small town in rural Kentucky, has now lived for 20 years in the scrubby desert country around Tucson, not far from the Mexican border, where wild, woolly peccaries and road-runners roost all day around the mesquite woods outside her cabin. Both landscapes have stamped themselves hard into the distinctive heart of her fiction.

Underpinned by a commanding political conscience, a belief in the ties of community, and a rapturous sense of wonder in the natural world, Kingsolver's stories chart the lives of witty, courageous women coping as best they can with calamity. *Animal Dreams* pits personal family losses against the encroaching threat of an environmental disaster and the broader background conflict in Nicaragua. *The Bean Trees* sends an adventurous young woman scuttling away from her hometown in a VW Beetle, determined not to end her



'Up there with Tom Wolfe?' Barbara Kingsolver shakes her head. 'I still can't believe it'

Nicola Kurtz

days barefoot and pregnant, hog-tied to a future as a tobacco farmer's wife – yet a couple of hours out of town the car's trashed and she's found herself the custodian of an abused Cherokee baby.

"The people I write about are always in a pickle," she admits. "I don't write about women with easy lives, because I don't write science fiction, you know? My books are about survival rather than manners. Where I grew up, that's what occupied people. My writing has always been about my passions. Most writers tell me they begin with incident or character. My point of origin is always theme. I'm not just putting pretty words together for the fun of it. How could I justify that?"

Kingsolver inherited her humanitarian concerns from her parents, who, she recalls, "set me early on a path of exploring the great, shifting terrain between righteousness and what's right."

In the middle Sixties, when Barbara was about seven years old, they took her with them to central Africa, where they spent a six-month stint as public health workers in an isolated village in the bush. The experience has resurfaced in her profoundly ambitious new novel, *The Poisonwood Bible*.

Following an ill-prepared family of American Baptist missionaries deep into the rank malarial jungles of the Belgian Congo in 1959, just as the country staggered towards independence, *The Poisonwood Bible* is a tenderly comic, but harrowing, tale of family and national catastrophe. Bearing Betty Crocker cake-

'I don't write about women with easy lives, because I don't write science fiction'

mixes, pinkie-shears, embroidery hoops, and packets of Kentucky Wonder beans, four young girls, their terrified mother Orleana and their fire-and-brimstone preacher father set off to bring salvation to Africa. Shackled to a singularly unyielding vision of the world, the Rev Price unsuccessfully tries to bend the villagers to his will, attempting to baptise his parishioners in a crocodile-infested river, and mistranslating his own sermons. Incapable of recognising the tonal subtlety

of the Kikongo language, he continues to thunder out the message "Jesus is beloved", as "Jesus is poisonwood", a venomous local tree with sap that burns savagely, suppurating welts into human flesh.

"The whole book is about a legacy of misunderstanding born out of this combination of absolute faith and arrogance," Kingsolver explains. "We all have it in us to think we are right, blundering along, insisting on our way of seeing things."

A wondrously compelling narrative, *The Poisonwood Bible* slowly reveals itself as a complex parable about CIA interference in Africa, specifically the assassination of the Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba, and the CIA's role in Mobutu's repressive puppet government.

"I wanted to tackle this issue of the post-colonial world and where we stand in it," says Kingsolver. "Of course, this is a whole tradition of literature in your country, but in the States we're just beginning to look at our culpability."

The defining moment for Kingsolver came in her twenties, when she first pitched up in the south-western states and found herself forced to confront American foreign policy head on.

"Here were people fleeing wars in

places such as El Salvador, created by my tax dollars, yet they weren't even allowed to cross the border to flee the death I was helping to pay for," she whispers, in a warm, soft voice that burns with big-sisterly compassion.

"Like Orleana and the girls, we didn't make it happen, we were the captive witnesses. But this was done in our name: now what? How do we incorporate it into our own stories and make something off we can carry forward?"

"We seem to be living in the age of anaesthesia," Kingsolver remarks in her collection of essays *High Tide in Tucson*. "Confronted with the knowledge of dozens of apparently random disasters each day, what can a human heart do but slam its doors? We didn't evolve to cope with tragedy on a global scale. Our defence is to pretend there's no threat of event that connects us, and that those lives are somehow not precious and real like our own."

The antidote to apathy, Kingsolver believes, is fiction. "A novel can make us weep over the same events that might hardly give us pause if we read them in a newspaper."

'The Poisonwood Bible', Faber, £10.99

Sung for laughs

MUSICAL COMEDY

FASCINATING AIDA
THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET
LONDON

LIKE MILITARY intelligence, musical comedy can be one of those great oxymorons. There is a preternaturally high risk of wine-inducing embarrassment whenever a comic performer is in the same room as a piano. As evidence, I need mention only two words: "Richard" and "Stiggoe".

So it is the credit of the musical comedy trio, *Fascinating Aida*, that, far from winning, their first-night audience at the Theatre Royal Haymarket on Tuesday was laughing heartily. The threesome – Dillie Keane, Adele Anderson and Issy van Randwyck – have long been adept at absurd juxtapositions. Done up like glamorous guests at a cocktail party thrown by Noel Coward, they effortlessly slip ignoble thoughts about, say, Richard Gere and gerbils into a perfectly executed piece of three-part harmony. They use a sweet form to deliver incongruously bitter content; many of their most upbeat songs are about disappointment and failure.

Their other skill lies in smoothly changing gear. Early on in their show, *Barfaced Chic*, they segued from "Best Seller", a romping ditty about Aga sagas ("Where women learn to be assertive/ And there's lots of knobbing, but it's always furtive"), into a plaintive melody of songs about broken hearts.

Undoubtedly, *Fascinating Aida* are slick. The first half of the show, which is directed by Clarke Peters on an awayday from Chicago, neatly employs the conceit that the trio are backstage warming up and being chivvied by a stage-hand to get a move on. More than once during the evening, clever spills into clever-clever – I have to confess that their song about genetically modified food lost me.

Just occasionally, *Fascinating Aida* also teetered on the brink of being hackneyed, singing ditties that reminded me of the "humorous" musical subjects such as Monica Lewinsky, Bill Clinton and Viagra are going to win originality awards only from people just returning from a two-year trek to the North Pole.

For all that, *Fascinating Aida* remain a sparkling act to look at and listen to. In one song, "Mr Springer", they dressed up as trailer trash and had a girl-gang fight as they sang about their problems: "Oh, Mr Springer, can I come on your show? My mum was my dad till a month ago."

And you have to warm to any act that can insert the following tasteless, topical couplet into a song about taboos: "Telling Basil Hume he talks a load of twaddle/ Going in a wheelchair to meet Glenn Hoddle."

JAMES RAMPTON

Fascinating Aida continues at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, London (0171-930 8800) until 6 March. Then touring nationally

Gods and monsters, we've got 'em

TUESDAY WAS quite a big day, one way and another, for Sir Ian McKellen. In the afternoon, he received the news that he had been Oscar-nominated for *Gods and Monsters*. In the evening, he triumphantly took to the stage as Prospero at the opening of Jude Kelly's production of *The Tempest*, a play that has, of course, its fair share of monsters and gods. How do you cap that in a 24-hour spree? Discover that the Blessed Virgin has touched down in your dressing-room for a post-show Horlicks and is slyly waving her autograph book in your direction...

The Tempest is the third and last event in the West Yorkshire Playhouse's vividly successful experiment in scheduling a season of drama with a resident company. One of the great benefits of seeing the same actors in a range of works is

THEATRE THE TEMPEST WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE LEEDS

that it encourages you to notice sly connections and contrasts between the plays. McKellen, for example, has just finished portraying Garry Essendine, that arch control freak and Noël Coward's alter ego in *Present Laughter*. This succession of roles alerts you to just how much of a control freak the magician Prospero is. Glamour-wise, McKellen's Prospero is at the opposite end of the scale from the silk-dressing-gowned Garry. In his tatty cardigan, battered straw hat and bare white shins, he resembles a day-tripper to Bogor who has fallen on hard times. But then, with its filthy

underfoot sheeting and dangling swags of iron chains, the enchanted island is here reimagined as a bleakly derelict correctional institute. As he enters, McKellen adds another chalk mark to the wall, as though counting off the days of his exile.

In an exquisitely calibrated, low-key performance he conveys to perfection the struggle in Prospero between manipulative rage at his shipwrecked enemies and an uneasy underlying conviction that the original wrongs done to him may have been partly his fault. Even at the zenith of his power, he delivers the rousing "Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes..." speech in the touching, disarrayed tones of a headmaster who has privately banded in his resignation but needs to keep up appearances at assembly.

If the emotions in this pro-

duction are real, most of the décor is pure plastic: such sheeting creates, among other things, wigwags for the spirits in the celestial masque and the huge wings that tumble like a catamaran from the lofty Ariel when he confronts the men of sin. The casting of actresses as these latter does not work: their scenes come over too much like a butch fancy-dress party. Consequently the crucial episode where the primary usurpation is so nearly re-enacted goes for little, and the performers playing Stephano and Trinculo lack the comic presence to sell the slapstick routines. But the rest of the production exerts a potent, if studiously uncharming, spell.

PAUL TAYLOR

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper



Claudie Blakley and Ian McKellen in 'The Tempest'

The model of an English burlesque

THE KISSING-DANCE or *She Stoops to Conquer*. That's an "or", note, not an "either or". Charles Hart and Howard Goodall are insistent that Oliver Goldsmith is still very much the driving force of their "burlesque musical comedy" for the National Youth Music Theatre. The play's the thing. But then, so is the musical.

Hart, in particular, enjoys much sport with Goldsmith, nudging the text with his smart and rapacious lyrics, manipulating the comedy of ill-manners so that its late-18th-century spirit is possessed of

MUSICAL THE KISSING DANCE NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE LONDON

a late-20th-century tone. It's all in the word play. Goldsmith would, I fancy, have applauded Hart's dexterity and been more than happy to have him put words into his mouth. Hart and Goodall's "song strategy" is on the button: sometimes, their musical interjections take the form of quasi-recitatives – tantalising tasters, promise as

yet unfulfilled; but mostly they are fully fledged "numbers", illuminating key intrigues and forwarding plot with Goldsmithian panache. There's a particularly fine example when Marlow and Hastings stop at the Fur and Feathers to ask directions to Nonessuch House. Tony Lumpkin's incomprehensible rewriting of the Ordinance Survey puts the spin on the entire evening. As Lumpkin later reminds us: "It's been up and down like a harlot's gown". That's Hart. Could Goldsmith have done better?

Then there's Goodall's

music, its Englishness inbred in a way that has nothing to do with pastiche and can be defined only by its own very sweet, quirky, very distinctive character. The title number is a case in point – a shadowy little idyll of a tune, insidiously memorable. Goodall's love of polyphony (the English choral tradition) makes for some smashing ensembles, while his instrumentation cleverly hints at period and local colour: a piano accordion pointing out the inheritance of street music, a solo trumpet lending both melancholy and a blast of the

tally-ho's to his racy Act 1 finale, the "hunt" for Lady Hardcastle's jewels.

There's a future for this piece, no question, but for now we have NYMT and the vision of directors Russell Levey and Jeremy James Taylor to thank for its first outing. If you're talent-spotting, you don't have to look far. On Tuesday night, initial nervousness made for inhibition and a sense of the house being underplayed. For a while the show was under starter's orders. But not for long. Ian Virgo's engaging Tony Lumpkin was banking

on a photo-finish from the off: Akiya Henry's Constance took a feverish turn on the virginal; Alexander Hassell amusingly caught Marlow's breakdown of co-ordination when confronted with girls "of his own station"; Michael Gibson was affecting as Hastings; and Simon Thomas, as his servant Stingo, upstaged even his funny hat. Funny, too, was Jess Brooks' Mrs Hardcastle, while Neil Clench's glowering Dick Hardcastle was always going to fall victim to some Stoppardian name-play. "Small, Dick?" Naturally.

EDWARD SECKERSON

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Julien Temple

1999

The director of the cult movies *Absolute Beginners* and *Earth Girls Are Easy* talks about his new film *Vigo*. Inspired by the work of the visionary French film-maker Jean Vigo, the film is a passionate portrayal of his life.

Questions and answers will be followed by a special preview of the film *Vigo* which precedes its theatrical release in the UK in the Spring

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ANTHONY QUINN

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

DIRECTOR: NEIL LABUTE
STARRING: BEN STILLER, CATHERINE KEENER, AMY BRENNEMAN, JASON PATRIC
100 MINUTES

One presumes it was a joke on the distributors' part to schedule the release of Neil LaBute's *Your Friends and Neighbors* on Valentine's weekend. It's hard to think of a film less likely to promote the cause of romantic togetherness, unless you count this writer-director's debut effort of last year, *In the Company of Men*. In that movie LaBute took for his model the duplicitous machinations of Restoration comedy and recast it in the harsh accents of the corporate American male, presenting the hateful but compelling story of two white-collar executives who woo a deaf office temp and simultaneously dump her.

After being roundly beaten with the misogynist stick in the US for *In the Company of Men*, LaBute has broadened his field of fire: this time men and women compete to be as appalling as each other. Its hatred seems more even-handed, though you'd be excused for not rejoicing at the news. The film daisy-chains an ensemble of urban thirtysomethings who are, to one degree or another, sex- and self-obsessed. (In LaBute's world, the two appear indivisible). Our first glimpse of Cary (Jason Patric) sets the tone: he's in bed practising his pillow talk with stop-watch and tape recorder, just prior to the arrival of his latest amour. Barry (Aaron Eckhart) prefers masturbation to making love with his wife, Mary (Amy Brenneman), who may be frigid: "She's wonderful," says Barry, "but she's just not... me." Jerry (Ben Stiller) has been rebuffed for talking during sex by his girlfriend Terri (Catherine Keener), who is later disposed to declare, "Fucking is fucking. It's not a time for sharing. I don't care what anybody says."

There are far nastier lines than that, but in their callous self-absorption those three sentences represent the closest thing to a philosophy these characters share. Jerry, who's a drama teacher, tells his class that for all the "language and lace" of Wycheley, "it's always about fucking". Or, in his case, it's always about fucking talking. Jerry just doesn't know when to shut up. Even on an adulterous rendezvous with his best friend's wife, he can't help jawing on about "fate" and "optimism" - and the last thing the wife wants to hear - her husband. When, finally, Jerry's unable to get it up, you feel that something like just deserts



Amy Brenneman, Nastassja Kinski and Catherine Keener. 'LaBute uses his camera dispassionately, like an eavesdropper'

have been served. The mood of betrayal takes hold: Terri falls into bed with a beautiful gallery assistant, Cheri (Nastassja Kinski), while Jerry, in a fit of pique, tells his best friend that he's cuckolded him.

You will have gathered that none of this makes for an edifying illustration of modern sexual manners. More surprisingly, it doesn't make for a very entertaining one either. As he did in his first film, LaBute uses his camera dispassionately, like an eavesdropper, and works almost entirely within enclosed spaces. He contrasts the civilised settings of bookstore, restaurant and art gallery with the savagely unpleasant things men and women say to one

another. But whereas one could never be sure if Chad and Howard in *In the Company of Men* were plotting the woman's downfall or each other's, the action of *Your Friends and Neighbors* never sets up a long game: we always know as much, if not more, than his characters do. This might not matter were the language as barbed as the misanthropy, but there's a halting, Pinterish blankness at the heart of this movie. LaBute is so much in love with the idea of people's selfish, despicable ways that he has overreached his means of attack: he has all the poison, but no darts.

This shortcoming is most evident in his depiction of the Jason Patric character, a

stud who puts the art into heartlessness. To be honest, his routine with the stop-watch and tape recorder seems quite out of keeping with his avowed cynicism - surely he would regard even the pretence of enhancing a woman's pleasure as beneath him? His big set-piece is a monologue in a steam-room about the best sex he's ever had: as Jerry and Barry listen, half excited, half appalled, Cary reveals that the best of all was, in fact, a boy he raped in summer camp. It's difficult to tell whether he's making it up or not, but its effect is to suggest a rather less dramatic possibility than was actually intended: could he be gay. In any case, Cary's loathsomeness feels

way overcooked. *Malignity* requires more stealth than a poster-boy with ripped torso and a perpetual glaze of boredom.

The rest of the cast seems enervated by LaBute's virulence. Catherine Keener, wonderful in Tom DiCillo's movies, is saddled here with such a snitty-hitch role you can't see how anyone might fall for her. Aaron Eckhart, who bit off his lines with vicious delight in *Company*, is a bumbling sad sack, while Amy Brenneman and Nastassja Kinski are little more than emotional punchbags. Only Ben Stiller manages to establish a character, his Jerry is a creep, but at least he goes some way to making that creepiness involving.

The most common complaint levelled at realistic movies such as this goes, "I didn't care enough about the characters". LaBute could get away with this if he gave his characters better lines, better scenes - some sense, at least, that their cruelty is enjoyable or interesting to them, as it was to the powdered double-dealers of the Restoration comedies he so admires. No: his aim is simply to compel the audience into guilty recognition of their own fallen state. The implication is that Terri, Jerry, Cary et al are just like our nearest and dearest. But are they really? They're not my friends or my neighbours. And I dare say they're not yours either.

ALSO SHOWING

LA VITA E BELLA ROBERTO BENIGNI (PG) ■ DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART WILLI PATTERSON (PG) ■ JACK FROST TROY MILLER (PG) ■ MY GIANT MICHAEL LEHMANN (PG)
■ I THINK I DO BRIAN SLOAN (PG) ■ SWITCHBLADE SISTERS JACK HILL (18) ■ HOTEL DU NORD MARCEL CARNÉ (PG)

THE ITALIAN comedian and director Roberto Benigni attempts a daring transgression in *La Vita e Bella*, a tragicomic fable about survival in the Holocaust. Benigni, playing Guido, a Jewish waiter in pre-war Arezzo, spends the first half of the movie getting into scrapes, twitting the town Fascists and courting a local schoolteacher (Nicoletta Braschi). Then the nightmare of Nazism impinges on the idyllic romantic slapstick abruptly gives way to the horror of a concentration camp, where Guido tries to protect his young son's innocence by pretending that the prison regimes are all part of an elaborate game.

It's difficult to underestimate the risk Benigni takes here. Comedy and the death camps will never make easy companions, and for most of the film's second half I seemed to be holding my breath in fear of some dire misjudgement by the film-

makers. *La Vita e Bella* does touch moments of heartrending pathos, as when the little boy (played hauntingly by Giorgio Cantarini) asks his father where the other children are. "They're all hiding," is the father's desperate reply. Yet while we can't help being moved by the lengths this exhausted fantasist goes to shield his son from the truth, there are passages here that prompt our unease. The basic implausibility of his free movement around the camp, his farcical translation of German orders to the assembled inmates, the grandly romantic gesture of broadcasting a love song to his wife (who's forgotten for long stretches of the film) all provide too stark a contrast with the grim atrocities we sense in the background.

And the coating of Chaplinesque sentimentality may well set your teeth on edge. For all its flaws, however, we are left feeling only good-

will towards Benigni, not just for the foolhardy courage of his film, but for his exuberant humanity.

A little of his spirit would have been appreciated amid the scrum of this week's other films. *Don't Go Breaking My Heart* is an earnest Anglo-American comedy that's puppyishly eager to please, despite having one of the worst scores in recent movie memory. Jenny Seagrove plays a grieving widow whose dentist (Charles Dance) resorts to the creepy stratagem of hypnotising her into falling in love with him.

His scheme goes awry when she cute-meets an American sports therapist (Anthony Edwards), who's coaching her teenage son in the 1,500 metres. Will hypnotism or true love win the day? Britcom writing and some wobbly direction betray a basic lack of confidence, but ER heart-throb Edwards (the other one) provides a likeable presence.



'La Vita e Bella'

Life-affirming nonsense, Part One: *Jack Frost* stars Michael Keaton as a rock musician who dies in a car accident, then comes back to life as a snowman. In this guise he gets to bond with the young son (Joseph Cross) whom he neglected in favour of his career. I suppose we ought to be used to Hollywood infantilism, but I watched in slack-jawed amazement at this tale of parental redemption kept top-

ping its own inanity. Worst of the year so far, but it would be unwise to make predictions, with the Robin Williams vehicle *Patch Adams* heading inexorably towards a cinema near you.

Life-affirming nonsense, Part Two: Billy Crystal does another of his feisty underdog routines as Sammy, the lowly talent agent of *My Giant*. Desperate for a break, he fetches up in Romania and accidentally discovers a 7ft 6in giant named Max (George Mureanu).

Hotfooting it back to Hollywood, Sammy tries to get his outside client a part in a Steven Seagal picture - some agent! - and then reunites him with his long-lost teenage love. Like *Jack Frost*, it jerks shamelessly on the heart-strings as Crystal decides that professional kudos is no match for personal fulfilment - a roundabout means for him to smile through tears and say, "Please love me". How needy can you get?

I Think I Do is a so-so ensemble comedy about a bunch of college friends reuniting for a wedding. Alexis Arquette plays Boh, still smarting from his unrequited love for ex-room-mate Brendan (Christian Maelen) who's now, it seems, an ex-heterosexual, too. Around them a perky and unfamiliar cast negotiates a route through the wedding party's in-laws and in-lows. Writer/director Brian Sloan shows intermittent flair for nifty social observation; his directing, however, is pretty leaden, and he relies too much on the slender charm of Arquette to carry the picture. It passes the time agreeably, all the same.

For a dose of authentic Seventies sizziness, you might try Jack Hill's *Switchblade Sisters*, a low-budget gang flick whose sets look flimsier than a Carlton game show. Lace (Robbie Lee), the top moll, befriends wildcat Maggie (Joanne

Nail), and together their girl gang take on a rival outfit led by the attractively named Crabs (Chase Newhart); then romantic jealousy sets the two girls at daggers, and hell breaks loose. Aficionados of bad taste, rotten acting and the outer limits of Seventies fashion will enjoy it, though the rape scenes and knife-fights will ensure that its following remains strictly underground.

Finally, a French valentine from 1938. Marcel Carné's *Hotel du Nord* combines the smoky poetic with the shabby mundane: despairing lovers (Annabella and Jean-Pierre Aumont) flub a suicide pact, while Parisian lowlife - prostitutes, pimps, fugitives - mills unconcernedly around. Carné's wistful fatalism is a perfect match for Alexandre Trauner's lovingly detailed set design. AQ

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RUSHES

MIKE HIGGINS

NEVER ONE to alienate a market, particularly one of the world's largest, Disney is back in the Chinese government's good books. According to a local news agency, the official China Film Corporation has passed the animated feature *Mulan* for a staggered release in China. The decision brings to an end a two-year stalemate between China

and the studio. Predictably, the Chinese authorities weren't exactly over the moon when, in 1996, the studio decided to produce Martin Scorsese's paean to the exiled Dalai Lama, *Rainman*. The good news comes a week after Disney's rival, Dreamworks, heard that Malaysia had banned *The Prince of Egypt*, on religious grounds.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR is gearing up for a return to the big screen and, if this week's rumours are to be believed, it's going to be a belter. She'll play Dorothy who, 50 years after she skipped down the yellow brick road, returns to Oz as a widowed pensioner. Rod Steiger, who broke the news in an interview, will play the Cowardly Lion, "now so tough he

has become a gangster and scares everyone to death". Can't wait.

CATHERINE ZETA Jones isn't hanging round after her turn in *The Mask of Zorro*. Gossip has it that Jones is in the running to don the boots for a new *Wonder Woman* movie.

AH, SWEET justice. An *Alan Smithee* Film: *Burn Hollywood Burn* - Joe Eszterhas's film about the production of the worst film ever - this week looked poised for a victory in the Golden Raspberries. The Raspberries honour the year's turkeys and Eszterhas's horror has managed to scoop an epic nine nominations.

arts

No rest for the afflicted

Paul Schrader's new film, *Affliction*, has been nominated for two Oscars. It's a harrowing tale of male violence. Business as usual, then. By Kevin Jackson

Paul Schrader has never been thought of as the most happy-go-lucky of film-makers. His screenplays include a trio of savage character dramas for Martin Scorsese - *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*; his directorial credits include the likes of *The Comfort of Strangers*, from Ian McEwan's novel about murderous perversity in Venice, and *Mishima*, which (to the best of my knowledge) is the only Hollywood production ever to be shot entirely in Japanese, and to take for its hero a bisexual, quasi-fascist writer who cuts his own belly out in the last reel.

Even so, the title of Schrader's latest film is uncompromising to the point of commercial seppuku. It's hard to imagine many lovers scanning through the listings pages and cooing: "Darling, how about going to the cinema next week? They're showing *Affliction*."

Schrader's production certainly won't be stirring much competition to *Shakespeare in Love* as an ideal date movie, and yet in the US, where it was released last year, *Affliction* ended up on the Top Ten lists of several critics for *Film Comment* - laurels were piled especially high on the craggy head of its leading actor, Nick Nolte - and the film has been hailed as a major return to form for one of America's most gifted and intelligent directors.

All this thoughtful acclaim has been an unexpectedly bumpy ending to a pre-production history so protracted and frustrating that the project seemed to be starting to live up to its name. "After four or five years, I had pretty much given up on ever getting it made," Schrader confesses. But, thanks partly to the commitment of Nick Nolte, who was anxious to act

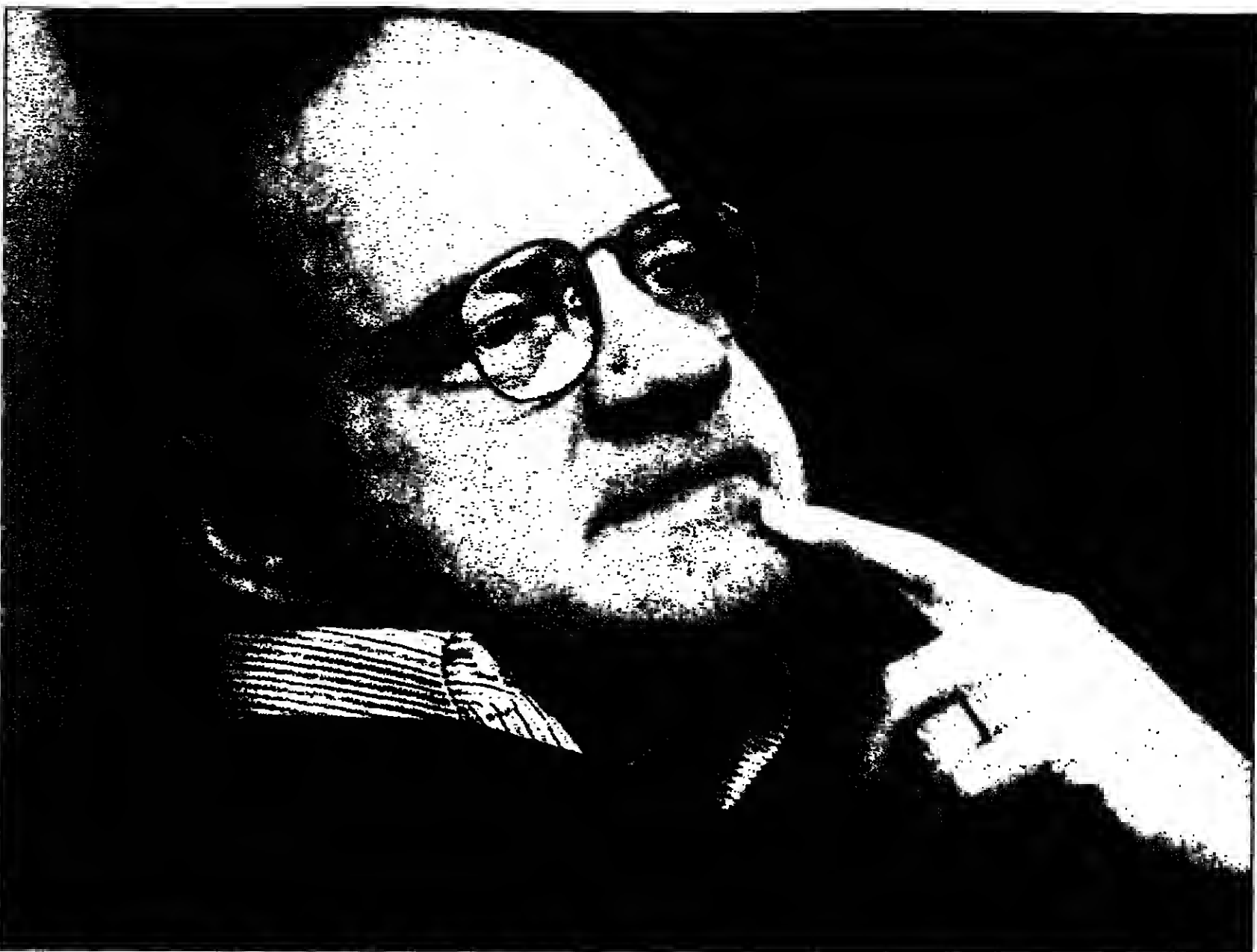
in a really big, red-corpused role again, after wasting too much of his time in high-budget fluff, and partly to the sheer tenacity of Schrader's regular producer, Linda Riesman, a deal was made: "I was off directing *Touch* (an adaptation of an Elmore Leonard novel about a faith-healer) when the word came through that *Affliction* was finally going to happen."

Affliction is closely based on a novel by Russell Banks. Schrader simply "picked the novel up in a bookshop. It just grabbed me, I optioned it myself, wrote a screenplay and took it straight to Nick."

One of the qualities that made the novel so irresistible for Schrader was its reflective treatment of a subject that has preoccupied him in some of his earlier films: "The whole issue of male violence, those anachronistic genes, where we have all this stuff in our DNA that we don't know what to do with any more - that need to go out and kill, and eat what we've killed."

While shooting the film, Schrader handed out dozens of copies of a recent study of primate aggression, entitled *Demonic Males*. "One of the guys on the crew had baseball caps made up for everyone that said, 'Affliction: Demonic Males on Tour'."

Russell Banks came along for a good part of the shoot to see how Schrader was putting this novel into images, and liked what he saw. "Russell says that it's the most autobiographical of his books, though he doesn't really say whether it's about him and his father, or about his father and his grandfather." And Schrader had several discussions with him about the book's less easily summarised themes. "As I got deeper into it, I became more fascinated by these ideas about the burden of memory, the elusiveness of memory, and



Mark Chivers

"I'm fascinated by that need to go out and kill and eat what we've killed"

the compulsiveness of the storyteller. "Then there's the complexity of the narrative - it pretends to be about one thing, about a murder, when it's really not about that at all... and underneath it there is a hidden main character who is slowly revealed to you."

That "hidden main character", played

winced-inducing moment, he wrenches out of his jaw with a pair of old pliers.

More than enough woe for any son of Adam; but Wade's real misery is shown to have begun years before, in the beatings he took from his father - a sneering, shambling, alcoholic thug, played with appalling authenticity by James Coburn,

where men are partners, and think what do I do with this woman?"

"At one level," Schrader elucidates, "you're watching the disintegration of a man, and his problems with male violence and his father. At another level, you're watching a movie about the younger brother who observes this situation, has withdrawn from the conflict and, in fact, secretly envies his older brother for being on the front lines. The thematic exchange in the piece is that the younger one says, 'at least I wasn't afflicted by that man's violence', and his brother says, 'that's what you think'. Just because he's gone to Boston and become a professor doesn't mean he's escaped."

Fatalism of this order makes *Affliction* seem at times like a spiritual cousin of the less cheerful aspects of Scandinavian drama - an association made all the more plausible by the film's unremittingly bleak winter landscapes. Since Schrader himself grew up in a Midwestern counterpart of this landscape, it's also tempting to see the film as a kind of return to his childhood. He's tentative: "I was raised in that envi-

ronment, I know those people. And there are some connections - I have an older brother, a strong father. But I always saw it as Russell's story, not my story. I knew that if I was as faithful to it as I could be, I would be in there somewhere."

Since completing *Affliction* a couple of years ago - for a while, he feared that it was going to take as long to find a distributor as it did to find a backer - Schrader has been, as usual, busy. Courting couples who think they might give *Affliction* a miss may be surprised to hear that his next film as director is an old-fashioned love story (very old-fashioned: it's inspired by Dante and Beatrice), with the appropriately seductive title, *Forever Mine*. Those who admire the fiercer strains of his work will be delighted to hear that, after an artistic divorce of a decade and a half, he's been reconciled with Martin Scorsese, and has written the screenplay for Scorsese's new film about paramedics in New York. And this one has a great title, too: *Bringing Out the Dead*.

Affliction opens on 19 February

One of the crew had baseball caps made up which said 'Affliction: Demonic Males on Tour'

in the film by Willem Dafoe, is an ostentatiously gentle professor of history who comes back to the small, snowbound New England town where his older brother, Wade (Nolte), the local cop, is enduring a mid-life crisis of catastrophic dimensions. He's divorced, estranged from his little daughter and humiliated by all the locals, and he thinks he's stumbled across a conspiracy to murder. He's also tortured by a rotten tooth which, in the film's most

who's not been on screen very often in recent years. (He's had afflictions of his own: arthritis in his hands and legs.)

Schrader called Coburn in to play the father because: "Nick and James are only 15 years apart, but they do represent two generations of Hollywood males. Coburn is of that Fifties generation, where men were men and women were babes - he's someone who isn't into sensitivity training. Nick is of that Sixties generation

The second time around

If you could re-make a classic romantic comedy, which would you choose and who would play the lead roles? Charlotte O'Sullivan invites six film critics to play fantasy film-making

HOLLYWOOD, IT'S generally agreed, used to do romantic comedies well and critics tend to howl when an old gem gets re-made. Hackles have already been raised with regards to *You've Got Mail*, a loose reworking of Ernest Lubitsch's *The Shop Around the Corner*. The cry goes up: "Oh they've ruined it! Oh they don't make stars like they used to!"

But who hasn't dreamt of revamping a favourite classic? I certainly have. If I were producer-for-a-day, I'd borrow Preston Sturges's much neglected *The Lady Eve*. In it, Barbara Stanwyck plays a card shark minx who takes a cruise with her wicked pop and, despite herself, falls for Henry Fonda's grumpy innocent millionaire ("I live fish"). Stanwyck would be replaced by indie star Parker Posey, a woman, like Stanwyck, whose cheek bones seem to have been chiselled by economic depression (Posey is also the only actress who could do justice to the wonderful "female orgasm" scene). Greg Kinnear - so anxiously wide-eyed in *As Good As It Gets* - would step neatly into Fonda's shoes.

What of the fussy critics, though? What

old romantic comedies would they transform, and what stars would they use?

Anthony Quinn: I've always thought someone should do Preston Sturges's *Sullivan's Travels* (1941) because the ideas it explores - art vs commerce, the entertainment vs issue movie - are still fresh (see Spielberg's *Amistad* for details). So I'd set it in Nineties Hollywood and have John Cusack or Tim Robbins in the Joel McCrea part - Cusack's my favourite actor and Robbins has that tall, slightly lumbering, all-American quality.

Veronica Lake's part would go to Sharon Stone - she's never had a real shot at doing "funny". It's probably too late for her to do it, because she's in her early forties now, but I'd kindly give her a go.

Tom Charity, *Time Out*: I'd like to re-make William Wellman's *Nothing Sacred* (1937). It's a film about journalism, a subject still ripe for comedy - more so than ever, in fact. Instead of Carole Lombard and Fredric March, I'd have Janeane Garofalo - I loved her in *The Truth about Cats & Dogs*

- and Kevin Spacey. Both of them have bite. As for the director, I am allowed a director, aren't I? Garry Marshall would be my man. I know he did *Beaches* and *Pretty Woman*, but he's an underrated director of comedy in my opinion. But it's true, he can be a bit soft. Can I have a scriptwriter? If so, I'd have Elaine May on board. Trust me, it'll work.

Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian's* new critic: I'd want *Roman Holiday* (1953) because it's such a wonderfully romantic story. I'd re-make it with Will Smith in the Gregory Peck role - for me, Smith is the Gregory Peck of the 21st century, a bit of a lad, big-eared and lovable.

For the Princess, only Gwyneth Paltrow comes close to being as lovely as Audrey Hepburn. The film would still be set in Rome, because I'm into the whole Italian thing - and you could still have Vespa rides, because they're very trendy now. But the script would need updating: the Princess would be a quasi-British, quasi-Diana figure and Smith, instead of being a journalist, would be a stalkerazzo, a rat shooting

video footage for the evening news. I'd abolish the Eddie Albert role and have Smith concealing a hi-tech, Sony cam in his tie, then watching it in his hotel the next day. He'd be gloating with his producer friends, but something in his heart would be dying.

Philip French, *The Observer*: I would love to see a re-make of *Gone With the Wind* (1939). It's very romantic and I've always found it funny. Nothing about the script would be changed, but the white characters would be played by black actors and vice versa. I'd have Angela Bassett as Scarlett O'Hara. Rhett would be played by Denzel Washington, Spike Lee could be Ashley Wilkes and Melanie would be Whoopi Goldberg. As for Mammie, I'd want that woman who was in *Beaches*, Bette Midler! That would be a very interesting twist.

Neil Norman, *Evening Standard*: I've got three: *Roman Holiday* - Irene Jacob and Robbie Coltrane - I'd love to see him doing proper romantic stuff. *Pillow Talk* (1959), with Anne Heche and Rupert Everett. And finally *Ninotchka* (1939) with



Second chances: Will Smith in an alternative 'Roman Holiday' and Angela Bassett in 'Gone with the Wind'



Photomontage: Ian Bartholomew

Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas to be replaced by Gwyneth Paltrow and Leonardo DiCaprio, just to see how badly they screw it up!

Alexander Walker, *Evening Standard*: I know exactly what film I'd re-make, because I've been recommending it to different producers over the years, hoping to get a finder's fee. It's a film people hardly

remember, called *It's Love I'm After* (1937). It originally starred Bette Davis and Leslie Howard as a Broadway couple who resemble the Lumis, and hate each other - they perform Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* while hissing insults.

I'd have Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson in the lead roles. Gwyneth Paltrow could be the girl sighing her heart out over Branagh.

DOUBLE BILL

JOHN WATERS, DIRECTOR OF 'PECKER', CURRENTLY ON RELEASE, ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

THE FACULTY (ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, 1998)
HURLYBURLY (ANTHONY DRAZEN, 1998)



THESE MOVIES are supposedly at opposite ends of the spectrum, which is the real reason I go to the cinema. I love extremes, so they would show as a double bill at the John Waters Theatre, if there were one. I don't think they would be a commercial success.

The Faculty is a teen movie, almost. It's a big, new film about aliens invading teachers, and it's the best high-school concept I have heard in a

long time: suppose teachers really were from another planet. The cast are snotty, sexy kids with good haircuts - what more could you ask for in a trashy movie? Often when something is

meant to be trash it tries too hard. I am thinking of films such as *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, also written by Kevin Williamson. The Faculty is his best teen-trash flick: it should win an Oscar for best haircuts. There is one for make-up, after all, and hair is so important in Hollywood.

Hurlyburlly, another new film, shows the worst side of homosexuality. The acting is absolutely fabulous: it's torture to spend two hours with these misogynistic, coke-snorting Elfishes monsters.

It's based on a very hip play by David Rabe. And it's one of the best of a

genre that I adore: the love-to-hate-LA type. It's an art film in the best sense of the word, the way they used to be. It's well-acted and it's not MTV-paced. It's a real downer. I always get invigorated by depressing films.

These two movies are not mainstream. One is commercially intelligent, the other is intelligent in a very unpleasant way. Most movie-goers don't enjoy both qualities. You could be punched in the face for recommending either of these two movies. Even my friends probably wouldn't like both.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

from the director of 'in the company of men'



a film by neil labute
your friends&neighbors
a modern immorality tale

STARTS TOMORROW AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Will the Lawrence murder inquiry report have implications for lawyers seeking to take private prosecutions? By Linda Tsang

Defence against racism

Would there ever have been a public inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence if the lawyers for his family had not started a private prosecution against the suspects?

The question is exercising the legal profession ahead of the publication of the inquiry report, which is expected to contain criticisms of the lawyers for the Lawrence family. "Hindsight is a wonderful thing," said one lawyer. "In many respects, the Lawrence family lawyers have been real heroes - they have had to go up against the legal system, the police and the Government. The family and the lawyers had to force the case back on to the agenda, when it could just have been another statistic."

The *Independent* revealed last month that the Lawrence family's barrister, Michael Mansfield QC, and the solicitor Imran Khan are likely to come under criticism in their handling of the private prosecution of the suspects. The report of the inquiry, which was chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, is due to be delivered to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, next week.

Benedict Birnberg, a leading civil rights solicitor who acted in the Derek Bentley case, says it is easy to be critical in retrospect. "One can understand that the family felt that they ought to try every possible avenue and, in retrospect again, they were not to know at that stage that the result may be that the suspects can never be prosecuted. Who was to know at that stage that there would be a public inquiry into the

whole matter?" Another barrister, who has acted for both the prosecution and the defence, says: "There are certainly problems in taking on a major private prosecution because it is a very different approach, especially if you have acted mainly as a defence lawyer - but this was a unique situation and one can understand why they went down that route. But, as in many cases, with the benefit of hindsight it is easy to say that it would have been advisable to get a second opinion."

In this particular and unique case, the situation now is that the Metropolitan Police are reported as investigating several new leads on the death of the teenager almost six years after he was stabbed. But unless there is completely new evidence that is incontrovertible - such as a third party saying that he saw certain persons committing the crime - the charges cannot be resurrected. "Sad as it is," says the QC, "the suspects have effectively been acquitted."

For others, criticism of the legal team is really a side issue to the main problems that the inquiry has already highlighted. The Metropolitan Police has been forced to make changes in its recruitment policies and Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve has taken charge of the murder squad.

No part of the criminal justice system has been untouched by the inquiry. The Society of Black Lawyers, which made submissions to the inquiry in London and Manchester, has also proposed training on race issues for the Crown Prosecution Service and at all levels of the education system.

The society's chairman, Peter



Doreen Lawrence, with her husband Neville behind, speaking outside the public inquiry into the murder of their son, Stephen

David Rose

Herbert, says that the inquiry has shown that racial stereotypes have no place in a criminal investigation.

And according to a leader in the field, Tony Edwards, "For criminal lawyers, there aren't massive lessons because colour has not been a problem in terms of lawyers giving better service to one group, but there is a message being sent about policing and the nature of investigations. There is no short-term solution, but this has concentrated everyone's minds on dealing with deep-seated racism - at all stages of investigation, the prosecution and the judicial stage."

The legal profession has already speculated on the prospects of the Lawrence family getting justice for the murder of Stephen. Some argue that even if there had been a civil case, it is unlikely that there would have been any pressure for the suspects to attend, and it could have been a damp squib. What the private prosecution did was force and then highlight the issue.

And far from any possible criticism in the report inhibiting the way defence lawyers may act in future, many lawyers consider that, unless the criticism is justified, the fact is that they have tended to set the

agenda rather than merely follow it. What is likely to have a larger impact on how defence lawyers work is the Government's proposals on legal aid in its Access to Justice Bill that is currently going through Parliament, and the possibility of public defenders who may perceive that they run the risk of losing their job if they go too far.

As Brian Barker QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, comments: "The system should cater for a wide variety of lawyers and that is the importance of having independent lawyers. If you have adequately funded independent solicitors and

barristers, there is more chance of getting a just result - for both sides."

Other lawyers have suggested further routes for the Lawrence case. One option, following a recent case in the European Court of Human Rights, is to mount a legal challenge against the police because of their inadequate investigation of the case originally. But, as the lawyers acknowledge, this will not necessarily result in what the Lawrence family want - the guilty parties being brought to justice.

Vicki Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group, says: "If there are any lessons to be learnt,

it's that there is clearly a need to have a police force that has a representative mix, and a need for better training on race issues. It is crucial that you create a police force where ethnic minority recruits want to stay; the statistics have shown for some time that a large number are leaving because of discrimination in the force itself."

These are hardly new or startling revelations, as Chapman adds: "It is 17 years since the Scarman report was published. If we had learnt the lessons from that report, we wouldn't have had to have the Lawrence inquiry."

Invasion of the bean-counters

Are the ethics of accountancy and law too at odds for a shared practice? By Robert Kingston

THE ADVANCE of the world's top five accountancy giants into the legal marketplace seemed unstoppable - until this year. But the record £3.5m fines and costs imposed on Coopers & Lybrand over failings in its audit work on the late Robert Maxwell's business empire, and the recent ruling of the House of Lords on "Chinese Walls" in the Prince Jefri case, have given the world's largest professional service conglomerates pause for thought. They have also given worried commercial solicitors a little breathing space from what they saw as the relentless onslaught of the bean-counters.

The Big Five - KPMG, Deloitte & Touche, Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young and

PricewaterhouseCoopers - were all originally pure audit firms. But in the last 10 years, all have moved into practically every field of commercial advice - management consultancy, investigative accounting, tax avoidance, information technology and corporate finance. The legal marketplace is the only area where they have failed so far to make a significant mark.

But they are determined to change that. In December last year, Edward Kangas, global chairman of Deloitte & Touche, told the press that he intended to build a global legal practice to rival some of the biggest commercial law firms within two years. Shortly afterwards, Gerard Nicolay, global legal

head of PricewaterhouseCoopers, said his firm aimed to become a top international law firm within a year.

But the full implications of the judgment of five law lords delivered in the same month are still being absorbed. The legal battle that led to the ruling began when the Sultan of Brunei fell out with his young son, Prince Jefri Bolkiah. The Sultan removed the Prince from his government post and the finance ministry instructed KPMG to investigate a series of transfers of capital made when Prince Jefri was chairman. The problem for KPMG was that its forensic accountants had for 18 months been advising the Prince in long-running litigation, which had been

settled only a few months earlier. There was a danger of a serious conflict of interest.

The team had been given access to documents detailing the Prince's assets and finances, and were acting as pseudo-solicitors, interviewing witnesses, searching for documents, drafting subpoenas and suggesting how the Prince's counsel should cross-examine witnesses in court. Now the same department was being asked to investigate missing funds for the government - and the Prince was the chief suspect. Although systems were put in place to ensure that no one who had worked for the Prince would work on this new project, the Prince found out and objected. The case went all the

way to the House of Lords, and the judges ruled that the accountants had not eliminated the risk of leaks. The decision followed the old City adage: there is no Chinese wall over which a grapevine cannot grow. The case sent solicitors and accountants scurrying to look at their own procedures to prevent conflicts of interest.

More generally, the Prince Jefri case and the Coopers & Lybrand fine have given the solicitors ammunition in their arguments that the rules which prevent multi-disciplinary practices or "one-stop shops" - where clients can get advice on law, accountancy, management and tax - should be kept in place. The more cynical of solicitors have always argued that the "ethics" of lawyers and accountants are too different.

Current Law Society rules force accountancy practices to live off their lawyers into separate firms. And these firms already discourage their lawyers from advising clients preparing for litigation, precisely because of the danger of conflicts with audit clients.

One solicitor, a partner at Kingsley Napley, Tony Sacker, says: "This is telling the Big Five accountancy firms that setting up a true multi-disciplinary is rather more complicated than they might think." Another partnership specialist, Ronnie Fox at Fox Williams, describes it as a "red light" to the expansion plans of the Big Five. But for most consumers of legal services, multi-disciplinary practices are seen as the way of the future, with, for example, high street law firms setting up with estate agents and accountants to provide advice on all aspects of property and investment - and at competitive rates. The Law Society is currently considering the rules, and is expected to make its decision later this year.

What these recent events do is warn clients that even if the Law Society does relax its rules, the rule of law will force them to keep the solicitors apart. It is a hiccup rather than an insurmountable hurdle to the one-stop shop.

Job losses and Rice Krispies don't mix

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF mergers and the resulting possible redundancies are broadcast every day. They are seen as a fact of business life, and necessary in an economic climate where consolidating and dominating the market is the way to survive and thrive. But the merger in 1996 to create the insurance company Royal & Sun Alliance has caught the attention of the press for a different reason.

The MSF union (Manufacturing, Science and Finance) is claiming that it was insufficiently consulted when their employers implemented mass redundancies. It goes on to say that when job losses were announced by Royal & Sun Alliance, the first that employees heard of it was on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme - which later led to the exercise to be called the "Rice Krispies redundancies".

The employment tribunal proceedings are still continuing, and the money at stake is an award covering each employee for a maximum of 90 days' pay in addition to any termination monies they received on redundancy.

With more than 5,000 jobs at stake, the claim amounts, potentially, to millions of pounds. The union claims that any subsequent discussions were a sham because the company had announced approximate job losses.

Although it is inappropriate to comment on the case itself while it is continuing, with mergers being announced every week there are points to note that may avoid others having to hear similar news over breakfast - and may forestall future litigation.

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



JOHN MCMULLEN

The law on consultation and information on mass redundancies is one of the lesser known areas of employment law. Although the 1975 EC directive that introduced the first legal code requiring employers to inform and consult employee representatives on mass redundancies appeared to be fairly innocuous, over the years it has been improved and made stricter.

Now, under the 1992 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act, if any employer proposes to make 20 or more employees redundant at any one establishment, then consultation has to begin in good time; and if 100 or more employees are to be made redundant, then it has to be at least 90 days before the first dismissal is made and, in other cases, 30 days.

And that consultation process has to include ways of avoiding dismissals, reducing the numbers of employees to be dismissed and mitigating the consequences for the workers who have lost their jobs. The whole process has to be undertaken so that agreement is reached with the employees' representatives. Although just

announcing the expected number of redundancies does not in itself constitute a breach of those provisions, it is absolutely clear that once the process is under way, consultation on redundancies must be meaningful, and be carried out in good faith.

And, perhaps because of the fall in trade union membership over the last two decades, since 1995 these provisions have been applied not only in relation to recognised trade unions but to every workplace. If there is no recognised trade union, you must deal with the elected employee representative.

Essentially, the wheel has turned almost full circle, imposing more and more rules on employers, and there is more to come. In the spring, the Department of Trade and Industry will publish new regulations which will toughen employee representatives' rights, and these will include the right to take time off to train for that role.

Looking even further ahead, the recently published draft European Directive on National Works Councils will mean that employers will have to consult such councils on plant closures and redundancies. In its present draft form, if that duty is broken, one sanction is to nullify the entire redundancy programme.

This is an age of increasing employee involvement, and employers will have to wake up to that or risk viewing future merger and redundancy announcements as the beginning of expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Dr John McMullen is national head of employment law at Pinsent Curtis

CLASSIFIED

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NEW FILMS

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

Director: John Lasseter
Starring: David Foley, Kevin Spacey
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

HIDEOUTS KINKY (15)

Director: Gillies MacKinnon
Starring: Kate Winslet, Said Taghmaoui
Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1970s Morocco trends Kate Winslet's bippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullin) unwillingly in tow. Meantime, gormless backpackers, Sufi teachers, thieving natives and Said Taghmaoui's child-of-the-soil love-interest weave hither and thither across the narrative. Regeneration director MacKinnon makes a fair fist of translating Esther Freud's novel to the screen: stirring in lots of ethnic chic and a canny period soundtrack. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Mifema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Kiburn Triangle Cinema, UCI Surrey Quays. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Director: Kevin Sullivan
Starring: Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg
Stella got her groove back like this. She took off to Jamaica with her feisty biddie (Whoopi Goldberg), sashayed around the beach in a clinging bikini, and got herself a little love action in the form of a man (Taye Diggs) young enough to be her son. So it goes: *Shirley Valentine* with an

Afro-American spin. Terry MacMillan's bestseller has been conjured into a kind of ongoing travelogue commercial - a coldly marketed "chick-flick" enjoying a run at cinemas before cropping up as your in-flight entertainment. Title star Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, UCI Surrey Quays

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)

Director: Richard LaGravenese
Starring: Holly Hunter, Danny DeVito
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Peckham Premier, Streatham ABC

PECKER (18)

Director: John Waters
Starring: Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci, Lil Taylor
Trash auteur Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer (Edward Furlong) adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artist by the New York elite. More *Hairspray* than *Pink Flamingos*, Pecker goes big on blue-collar kitsch without ever making any real, stringent point, and squanders Christina Ricci (as Furlong's hard-nosed girlfriend) into the bargain. The result is entirely genial, but you miss the old risk, edge and bad-taste artistry. Age, it seems, has mellowed John Waters. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: Plaza, Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Bezzelheath Cinesworld, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village North Finchley, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Richmond Odeon Studio, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon

BULLWORTH (18)

Disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns suicidal loose cannon; hanging out in the hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End, Local: Catford ABC, Croydon Cloddower, Croydon Safari, Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village Finchley Road, Peckham Premier, Wimbledon Odeon Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for him in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mifema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's full-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fueled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, but the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: Gate Notting Hill Repertory: Prince Charles, The Lux Cinema

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Hilary Swank sustains. Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mifema, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Hill, Local: Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon Studio

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy. Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

His gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MEET JOE BLACK (12)

Martin Brest's underdeveloped rehaul of *Death Takes a Holiday* stars Brad Pitt as the equine Grim Reaper, who get chaperoned around the everyday delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Local: Bezzelheath Cinesworld, Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Streatham ABC

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End, Local: Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Richmond Odeon Studio, UCI Surrey Quays

PI (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Pantons Street, Curzon Soho, Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)

Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, *Practical Magic* sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their orbit. With Dianne Wiest and Aidan Quinn. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's luckster LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon. Repertory: National Film Theatre

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

STEPFOM (12)

This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has hooked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (18)

James Toback's taut drama probes aggressively at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna, and *Two Girls and a Guy* gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

VERY BAD THINGS (18)

A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security guard who rumbles the crime, and then start coming apart at the seams on their arrival home. Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering gross-out comedy in a *Loaded*-magazine style. With Cameron Diaz and Christian Slater. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a mid-star cast.

Living Out Loud (15)

Holly Hunter (right) plays a Manhattan woman who, left by her husband, befriends the elevator operator in her building. Writer Richard LaGravenese handles everything with affectionate restraint.

A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Ant*, this animated feature spins another good yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

PI (15)

Darce Aronofsky's debut, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines *Wall Street*, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headbashes.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 26 Feb

The Forest (Lyttelton, National Theatre)

Frances de la Tour is deliciously amusing as the cradle-snatching widow in Ostrovsky's comedy about tyrants and thespians. In rep. To 11 Apr

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)

An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre)

Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production (right) of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)

It's third time lucky for this much-revived musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, more magnificent show. To 13 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

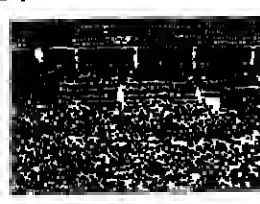
Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite melanges of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money, images of triumphant bourgeois luxury. To 25 Apr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)

The modern object-world made luminous. This survey of nearly 50 years' work offers his full range - notably, those bold laconic outlines, blocked in with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)

Photographs 1994-98 (right): wide-vision, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - images filled with more than the eye can see. To 7 Mar



Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)

"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisananim (Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh)

Gursky's sizzling landscapes alternate with Krisananim's collages of cultural detritus. To 27 Mar

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTONS STREET

(0870-9020404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm,
8.10pm, 10.10pm
Lock Stock & Smoking Barrels 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm
Mars Attacks! 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) @ 1pm @ Piccadilly Circus
The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
There's Something About Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm
ABC SHAPESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square
Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm
Mars Attacks! 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square
Square Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Un homme et une femme 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
On a volé la cloche 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Le Renard 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.00pm
Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Hilary and Jackie 6pm, 8.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-371 3742) @ Sloane Square
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Junction
Junction Junction 9pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
Pecker 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON NINEA

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Corner/Knightbridge
Hilary and Jackie 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255) (12noon-6pm) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
Hilary and Jackie 4pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
PI (1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm)

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Meet Joe Black 12noon, 2.45pm, 4.55pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm
Egypt 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate Hilary and Jackie 4.20pm, 8.50pm
Little Voice 2.20pm, 6.50pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus Dobson 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Pecker 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 7051) @ Notting Hill
Gate Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(08705-050007) @ Camden Town
A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Pecker 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Stepmom 12.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm
Very Bad Things 3.45pm, 9pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(08705-050007) @ High Street
Kensington
A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm
Practical Magic 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
Stepmom 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(08705-050007) @ Marble Arch
A Bug's Life 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm
Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm
The Siege 3.35pm, 8.55pm
Stepmom 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm
The Siege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(08705-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Hilary and Jackie 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.45pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

ODEON WEST END

(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
Hilary and Jackie 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm
Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly
Circus Everest 9.05pm LS (IMAX)
2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm
Back to the Creators (8-12) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm
Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

RENOIR

(0171-897 8402) @ Russell Square
The Apple (58) 1pm, 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.45pm, 9.30pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Hilary and Jackie 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) @ Brixton
The Flower of My Secret 2.10pm
Hilary and Jackie 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm
How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm
The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street
Hilary and Jackie 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902041) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 1.50pm, 4.45pm, 8.50pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907071) BR: Cuckoo A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902041) BR: Streatham A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

STRATFORD PICTURE
NEW (0181-555 3366) BR: Stratford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

SURREY QUAYS
ABC (0990 888990) BR: Surrey Quays A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

SUTTON
ABC (0990 888990) BR: Sutton A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

URXBRIDGE
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Uxbridge A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902042) BR: Walthamstow A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932- 528252) BR: Walton on Thames A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WILLESDEN
ABC (0181-880 0821) BR: Willesden A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WIMBORNE
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimborne A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) BR: Wood Green A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
ABC (0181-880 3463) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
ABC (0181-880 3463) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

WOODHURST
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WOODHURST
ABC (0181-880 3463) BR: Woodhurst A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.20pm, 10.40pm. Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

THE LUX CINEMA Horton Square, NI (0171-684 0201) Modulations (NC) 9pm.

NFT South Bank SE1 0171-828 3232 My Name Is Joe (15) 2.30pm, 6.30pm. Women in New York (Frauen in New York) Fassbinder (NC) 6.15pm. Rounders (15) 7.30pm. Rush Hour (15) 8.40pm. Erik Alexanderplatz, Episode One: Fassbinder (NC) 8.45pm.

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Hideous Kinky (15) 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.15pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 (0171-437 8181) Hane-Bi (15) 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.15pm. The Full Monty (15) 9pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, W8 (0171-2421 0100) Out of the Past (PG) 6.45pm + Rebecca 8.45pm.

WATRAMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181- 566 1176) Year of the Horse (15) 7pm.

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503) Two Girls and a Guy (18) 2.30pm, 6.45pm. Hideous Kinky (15) 4.30pm, 8.45pm.

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Hideous Kinky (15) 6pm, 8.30pm. Pecker (18) 6.05pm, 8.20pm.

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) The Opposite of Sex (18) 1pm. Hideous Kinky (15) 3pm, 9.15pm. Nosferatu (1921 Version) (PG) 2.15pm, 4.30pm. Neige (Class Trip) (NC) 7pm.

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222- 899666) Metastasis (18) 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Pecker (18) 8.15pm.

LEICESTER
PHOENIX ARTS (0153-255 4854) Hideous Kinky (15) 6.15pm. The Boys (18) 8.30pm.

NORMICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Lieke Martens (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm. Funny Games (18) 8.15pm.

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): The Mighty (PG): (P) (15).

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. — Seats at all prices — Seats at some prices — Returns only. — Sun, [3]; Tue, [4]; Wed, [5]; Thur, [6]; Fri, [7]; Sat, [8].

ALARMIS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages from the past. Kesteven and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama about the life of Mozart. Old Vic Theatre, St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 130 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the orphaned girl who becomes a star. Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/ Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (A) 7.15pm, (1) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART Tom Manton, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) or Leic. Sq, Tue-Sat 8.00pm, (A) 7.15pm, (1) 4pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Leish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the fairytale. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical about two boys who are separated at birth. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) or Leic. Sq, Tue-Sat 8.00pm, (A) 7.15pm, (1) 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

CHICKADEE Musical biopic about the life of Chickadee. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

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MISS SAIGON Musical which re-tells the story of the French Indochina. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

OKLAHOMA! Musical biopic about the life of Oklahoma. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065) or Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (S) 7.15pm, £19.50-£27.50. £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 160 mins.

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RENT Musical inspired by

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce
8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update
10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00 Clive Warren 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Richard Allinson
12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker
7.00 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Punt and Dennis: It's Been a Bad Week 9.30 Comedy Showcase: Canned Heat 10.00 Melly Talks Jazz 10.30 Nicky Home
12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air 9.00 Masterworks
10.30 Artist of the Week
11.00 Sound Stories
12.00 Composer of the Week: Telemann
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
2.00 The BBC Orchestras
4.00 Ensemble
4.45 Music Machine
5.00 In Tune
7.00 Performance on 3. See *Pick of the Day*
8.30 LMP at 50. Susan Sharpe explores the history, aims and achievements of the London Mozart Players. With contributions from musicians who have played with the orchestra, and conductors past, present and future: founder Harry Blech, music director Matthias Bamert, and James Galloway, who becomes principal guest conductor in September.
8.30 Concert, part 2. Mozart: *Va da ma dove?* K583; *Al desio di chi t'adora* (The Marriage of Figaro); *Bella mia fiamma*, K528; *Symphony No 29 in A*, K201
9.45 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency, 4: *Surviving History*. The shaping events and movements of the postwar era as they have been captured on film by

PICK OF THE DAY

CONTINUING THE trend of merging drama and documentary is Cuban Solo (2.15pm R4). David Pownall's account of the life and murder of the Cuban anti-corruption judge and classical composer, Alejandro Caturia. The research behind the play brought new information to light. Sadly though, Robert Glenister's Caturia conjures Harrow rather than Havana.

There are two celebrations tonight: in performance on 3 (7pm R3), the London Mozart Players mark their 50th anniversary with a concert at the Royal Festival Hall. Raskin at 100 (8pm R4) charts the history of the Oxford college and ponders its role in the 21st century with a little help from John Prescott (right).

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



Magnum's most brilliant photographers. (R)
10.30 Music Restored. Lucia Sheaping introduces a selection of music in praise of the Virgin, including Antonio Brumetti's Ave virgo gloriosa sung by the Orlando Consort, and a 'Salve regina' by Hasse performed by soprano Emma Kirkby and London Baroque.
10.45 Night Waves. What does reading the Bible as literature rather than history reveal about the ancient world? Paul Allen talks to Thomas L. Thompson, whose new book, *The Bible in History: How Writers Create a Past*, contributes to one of the most controversial debates in cultural history. There is more biblical conflict in Nick Darke's new play, *Riot*, when a dispute among Cornish fishermen over Sunday observance turns into a battle between rival towns: a report from tonight's opening at the Royal National Theatre. Plus views of Pines's monumental prison series, on display at the Courtauld Institute for the first time.
11.30 Jazz Notes
12.00 Composer of the Week: Liszt
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today
9.00 NEWS; Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time
9.30 Matchmakers. (R)
9.45 Serial: Tulip
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour
11.00 NEWS; From Our Own Correspondent
11.30 Fat Chance.

age of New Labour. See *Pick of the Day*.
8.30 The Week in Westminster. Michael Crick takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster.
9.00 NEWS; Testbeds. Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that shape our lives.
9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.
10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories. 'A Ghost Story'. Bumps in the night. Kelsey Grammer reads the fourth of five tales.
11.00 NEWS; The Way It Is. Satire, sketches and a hard look behind the week's media events. With Simon Evans, Tracy-Anne Oberman and David Lamb.
11.30 A Good Read. (R)
12.00 NEWS
12.30 Late Book: Lennon's Tale
12.45 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service
5.30 World News
5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast
9.00 Nicky Campbell

12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.30 The Hardest Game. Concluding the series in which former BBC boxing correspondent Harry Carpenter reflects on the sport from the 1950s to the present day. This week, he remembers legends like Sugar Ray Robinson and Henry Cooper.
8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team examine the issues that affect the sporting world.
9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene.
9.30 Sportshop. Tricia Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jane Markham. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO
(125.197-126.043 MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forster. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allan

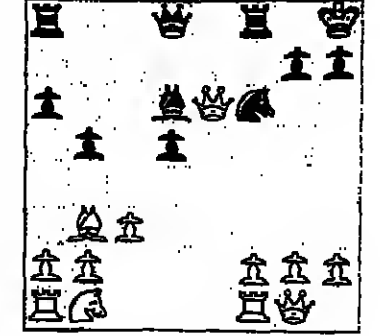
WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00)

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrar. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Rasmus. 3.00 Peter Doolley. 5.00 The SportsZone. 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray. 8.00 James White. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN



JOY OH joy, my local Tube station has installed automatic gates. Just before this, I overheard a sadistic petty official relishing the prospect of miscreants damaging their limbs while trying to vault over. A heavy punishment, you may think, but not in the league of the summary execution that can befall the chess player incautious enough to snatch a single hot pawn.

Sometimes, of course, it's quite correct to take a pawn, even at the cost of development in the opening, if this damages the opponent's position permanently. Indeed, with the introduction of engines such as (ChessBase's) Fritz and his many friends, pawn-snatching has received ever wider exposure, for these materialistic monsters give great weight to the exact pawn count and often fail, especially if given insufficient "thinking" time, to spot the compensation beyond their search horizons. The blasted things, moreover, are painfully good at defending their ill-gotten gains against us mere mortals; and an overexposure to them may skew our judgement in this matter.

The fact remains, though, that a thoroughly poisoned pawn is thoroughly poisoned, and can be ingested only at great risk. Take this game from the match, just over a fortnight ago, between Gwent Dragons and Guildford in the second division of the Four Nations' Chess League.

This whole line, jettisoning a bishop so early, looks fairly harmless and King met it head on with the provocative 11...Bd6! If White insists on taking a pawn in the opening, he might try 12 Bxd5? Nxd5 13 Qxd5 when King intended simply Rb8. Instead Varley decided to "punish" Black's play with the disastrous 12 Qe3+ and 13 Nf4.

When Dan shined me the game, my absolute first instinct in the diagram was 16...Rd7, but of course 16...Qb6! is infinitely stronger. The main threat is 17...Bxb2+ but 17...Ne4 is also vicious. Unsurprisingly, if 17 Bxd5 Ra8 18 Qb5 Nxd5 19 Qxd5 Qxc2+ 20 Rxf2 Re1+ 21 Rf1 Rxd1 is mate.

18...Bxb2+ was utterly decisive. If 21 f4 Ne3 22 Qd3 Nxf1+ 23 Qxf1 and eg Rxf1 24 Qxf1 Re3+ 25 Kg1 h5+. At the end, White can't even sacrifice his queen in prolog the agony significantly. And all this for me hot pawn!

White: Peter Varley
Black: Dan King
Sicilian 2.c3

1 e4 c5 13 Nd4? 0-0!
2 c3 e6 14 Nxe6 fxe6
3 d4 d5 15 Qxe6+ Kh8
4 exd5 exd5 16 0-0 see
5 Be3 cxd4 diagram! Qb6!
6 Bxd4 Nc6 17 Qe2 Ra8
7 Bb5 a6 18 Qc2 Bxb2+!
8 Ba4 b5 19 Kxh2 Ng4+
9 Kf3 Nxd4 20 Kg3 Qd6+
10 Qxd4 Nf6 21 Kxg4 Qf4+
11 Ne2 Bb6! 22 Kh3 Re6
12 Qe3+? Be6 0-1

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

THE BRITS did well at the recent Rio carnival of poker in Las Vegas. The good players won and the other players learned a lot. Among the winners, John Kabbaj, 25, one of the up and coming (sometimes down and going) younger players on the London circuit, showed good form. His aggressive style prevailed over 150 rivals; he took first prize of \$40,000 in the \$1,000 pot limit Omaha event.

The turning-point hand for John came just before the final table, when he found 7-7-K-10 on the big blind. The flop came down 7-J-Q. Bottom trips is a good but dangerous hand at Omaha (the four-card version of Hold'em). With 15,000 in chips left, John raised 2,000. When he got re-raised, he stopped to think. He was inclined at first to throw his hand away. But with a straight draw as well as trips, and the chance, if his hand held up, of becoming chip leader, he stuck all his money in.

This is the kind of risk you have to take in tournament play, if you are playing to win (and not merely to hang in there as long as possible). Even if you think you may be taking slightly the worst of it, the bet is justified. In this instance, John's trips stood up against two

high pairs. And at the final table he was in a commanding position. Tournament play is as different from cash games as, say, one-day cricket is from a regular match. As it happens Kabbaj (known to all as "Cabbage") is a fast bowler who can swing it when he needs to.

The best book on tournament play is the former world champion Tom McEvoy's *Tournament Poker*, available from High Stakes, London's new gamblers' bookshop (21, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JB, 0171-430 1021, fax 430 0021) at £34.95, plus 10 per cent postage. "There is a very fine line between loose play and solid aggressive play," McEvoy advises. The former world champion Phil Hellmuth says in his foreword that he begged McEvoy not to write the book. It gives away too many secrets!

The most detailed and technical book on tournament play is *Poker Tournament Strategies* by Sylvester Suzuki, pen name of a freelance writer living in California. This little book is the tournament equivalent of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* - immensely practical, if you happen to be driving round the highways and byways of American card rooms.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Redwood Curtain (1995) (R5058)
8.00 Amy (1991) (R2543), 9.00 Carpool (1996) (R2655), 12.00 The Directors (21782), 1.00 Femmes Fatales (R3043), 2.00 Redwood Curtain (1995) (R5058), 4.00 Amy (1991) (R2543), 5.00 Carpool (1996) (R2655), 7.30 Tracey Takes On... (1996), 8.00 Hollywood Buzz (1995), in the intimate Relations (1995)
10.00 The Directors (2554), 12.00 How to Make an African Quilt (1995) (R3659), 2.05 The both of a Lady (1995) (R32547), 4.30 Accout...
NOVEMAX
1.00 The (1995) (R3332), 9.00 And Baby Makes Six (1997) (R237), 11.00 Forgiven City of Planet of the Apes (1974) (R5053), 1.00 Desperate (1997) (R5053), 3.00 And Baby Makes Six (1997) (R237), 5.00 Forgiven City of Planet of the Apes (1974) (R5053), 7.00 Angus (1995) (R237), 9.00 Voyage of Terror (1996) (R237), 11.00 Nemesis (1992) (R01430), 12.35 Jailbreak (1997) (R5122), 2.00 The Ticket (1997) (R06183), 3.40 I, the Jury (1982) (R8574), 5.30 - 7.00 Desperate (1997) (R5053)

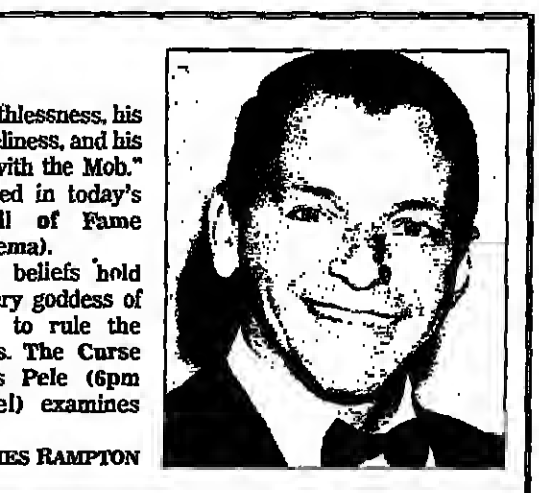
SKY CINEMA
4.00 Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror (1942) (R5053), 5.30 Hollywood Hall of Fame (1997) (R5053), See *Pick of the Day*, 6.00 Son of Paleface (1952) (R04053), 8.00 The Racket (1951) (R06183), 10.00 From Noon till Three (1978) (R5053), 11.40 The Parts of a Palace (1974) (R2353), 1.00 Walk the Line (1970) (R2353), 3.05 The Last of Hell House (1979) (R2353), 4.40 - 6.00 Private Hell 36 (1954) (R68422)

FILMFOUR
6.00 Widows' Peak (1994) (R06183), 7.40 Sunny Spots (1999) (R5053), 9.00 Rainy Stripes (1993) (R48959), 10.00 Black Rainbow (1999) (R77733), 11.45 The Innocents (1961) (R2353), 1.25 Nothing Personal (1995) (R5053), 2.30 - 6.00 Arizona Dream (1995) (R5053)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt Spectacles (R5107), 4.30 Walkers World (R5107), 5.00 Wheel Nuts (R5107), 5.30 Treasure Hunters (R5053), 6.00 Animal Doctor (R5053), 6.30 Australian Deserts: An Unnatural History (R5053), 7.30 The Elegant Solution (R5053), 8.00 Discover Magazine (R5053), 9.00 Science Frontiers (R5053), 10.00 World and Civilization (R5053), 11.00 Forensic Detectives (R5053), 12.00 High Anxiety (R5053)

PICK OF THE DAY

WHILE JUSTLY celebrated for his unrivalled singing ability, Frank Sinatra (right) has perhaps not always got the credit he deserves as an actor. The winner of two Oscars - for *From Here to Eternity* in 1953 and *The Man with the Golden Arm* in 1955 - he was able to convey a variety of emotions on screen. Maybe this was down to his contradictory personality, which fellow actor David Niven encapsulated thus: "his talent, his



generosity, his ruthlessness, his kindness, his loneliness, and his rumoured links with the Mob." Sinatra is profiled in today's Hollywood Sky Channel of Fame (5.30pm Sky Cinema).

Ancient tribal beliefs hold that Pele, the fiery goddess of volcanoes, used to rule the Hawaiian Islands. The Curse of the Goddess Pele (6pm History Channel) examines these beliefs.

JAMES RAMPTON

1.00 Treasure Hunters (R5053), 1.30 Wheel Nuts (R5053), 2.00 Close
SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (1994), 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (R4459), 8.30 Hollywood Squares (R237), 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1994), 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (R237), 11.00 Gullit (1995), 12.00 Jerry Jones (R0072), 1.00 Mad about You (R5053), 1.30 Jeopardy! (2000), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1994), 3.00 Jerry Jones (R0072), 4.00 Gullit (1995), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1995), 6.00 Gullit (1995), 6.30 Dream Team (R0072), 7.00 The Simpsons (2000), 7.30 The Simpsons (2000), 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (1995), 8.30 World's Wildest TV (1992), 9.00 Friends (R4459), 9.30 E.R. (1995), 10.30 Verdict Close (R5053), 11.00 Dream Team (R0072), 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (1995), 12.00 The Cornish (R0072), 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (R5053)

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (R4459), 7.35 World Wrestling (R2141), 8.15 You're on Sky Sports (R5053), 9.00 Racing News (R5053), 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (R4459), 10.00 Euro Tour Golf (R5053), 1.00 Golf (R2141), 4.00 Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (R5053), 5.00 International Football England vs France (R5053), 5.30 The Simpsons (2000), 6.00 Unbelievable Sports (R5053), 6.30 International Football England vs France (R5053), 7.00 Waterports (R5053), 7.30 V-Max (R5053), 8.00 Unbelievable Sports (R5053), 8.30 What a Weekend (R5053), 9.00 Inside the PGA Tour (R5053), 9.30 The Rugby Club (R5053), 10.00 Ice Hockey (R5053), 10.30 Golf USA (R4459), 12.00 Rugby Club (R5053), 1.00 Ice Hockey (R5053), 1.30 Cricket (R5053)

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (R5053), 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (R5053), 1.30 Fish TV American Outdoors (R5053), 2.00 FA Cup Classics (R5053), 3.30 Badminton

(R5053), 5.00 The Young Ones (R5053), 5.45 Bottom (R5053), 6.05 Ivanhoe (R5053), 6.30 The Bill (R5053), 7.00 The Bill (R5053), 7.30 Blackadder (R5053), 8.00 Spender (R5053), 8.30 Colin's Sandwich (R5053), 9.00 Shopping (R5053)

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (R5053), 6.30 Johnson and Friends (R5053), 6.50 Philbert the Frog (R5053), 7.00 Tiny Tales (R5053), 7.30 Greedyhouse and the Gang (R5053), 8.00 Puka Dot Shorts (R5053), 8.30 Practical Parenting (R5053), 9.00 Professor Bubble (R5053), 9.30 Callio (R5053), 9.55 Bug Alert (R5053), 10.00 Practical Parenting (R5053), 10.30 Barney and Friends (R5053), 10.55 Babaloo (R5053), 11.00 Callio (R5053), 11.30 Tiny and Crew (R5053), 11.55 Practical Parenting (R5053), 12.00 Carat Cook, Work Cook (R5053), 12.30 The Roseanne Show - Highlights (R5053), 1.00 The Jerry Springer Show (R5053), 1.30 Maury Povich (R5053), 1.45 Brookside (R5053), 1.50 Animal Rescue (R5053), 2.00 Animal Rescue (R5053), 2.30 Animal Rescue (R5053), 3.00 Michael Cole (R5053), 3.30 Michael Cole (R5053), 4.00 Michael Cole (R5053), 4.30 Michael Cole (R5053), 5.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (R5053), 5.30 The Jerry Springer Show (R5053), 6.00 Rescue 111 (R5053), 6.30 Animal Rescue (R5053), 6.50 Maury Povich (R5053), 7.00 Films: Shooting Eliza (R5053), 7.30 The Sex Zone (R5053), 8.00 Close

TNT
6.00 Father of the Bride (1950) (R2353), 7.00 Boys Night Out (1962) (R48959), 8.00 The Angry Hills (1956) (R5053), 9.00 Father of the Bride (1950) (R2353), 10.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Jerry (1995), 7.30 Grace Under Fire (1995), 8.00 Ellen (1997), 8.30 Newsradio (1994), 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (1991), 9.30 Where Line Is It Anyway? (1992), 10.00 Frasier (R5053), 10.30 Cheers (1970), 11.00 Sanford (R5053), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (R5053), 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (R5053), 1.00 Taxi (R5053), 1.30 The Critic (R5053), 2.00 Dr Katz (R5053), 2.30 Ties and Fire (R5053), 3.00 Highland (R5053), 3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costello (R5053)

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline (R5053), 12.05 Hearts and Minds (R5053), 12.35 Film: Welcome to Blood City (R5053), 2.00 Joins BBC News 24 (R5053)

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 12.30 Doorman (R5053), 12.45 Doorman (R5053), 1.00 Doorman (R5053), 1.15 Doorman (R5053), 1.30 Doorman (R5053), 1.45 Doorman (R5053), 2.00 Doorman (R5053), 2.15 Doorman (R5053), 2.30 Doorman (R5053), 2.45 Doorman (R5053), 3.00 Doorman (R5053), 3.15 Doorman (R5053), 3.30 Doorman (R5053), 3.45 Doorman (R5053), 4.00 Doorman (R5053), 4.15 Doorman (R5053), 4.30 Doorman (R5053), 4.45 Doorman (R5053), 5.00 Doorman (R5053), 5.15 Doorman (R5053), 5.30 Doorman (R5053), 5.45 Doorman (R5053), 6.00 Doorman (R5053), 6.15 Doorman (R5053), 6.30 Doorman (R5053), 6.45 Doorman (R5053), 7.00 Doorman (R5053), 7.15 Doorman (R5053), 7.30 Doorman (R5053), 7.45 Doorman (R5053), 8.00 Doorman (R5053), 8.15 Doorman (R5053), 8.30 Doorman (R5053), 8.45 Doorman (R5053), 9.00 Doorman (R5053), 9.15 Doorman (R5053), 9.30 Doorman (R5053), 9.45 Doorman (R5053), 10.00 Doorman (R5053), 10.15 Doorman (R5053), 10.30 Doorman (R5053), 10.45 Doorman (R5053), 11.00 Doorman (R5053), 11.15 Doorman (R5053), 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6 PM 7 PM 8 PM 9 PM 10 PM

Channel

5.00 *5 News and Sport* (3) (65555550), **7.00** *Widowmaker* (1) (63930091), **7.30** *Widowmaker* (3) (24489252), **7.55** *Winners* (3) (3182871), **8.00** *Headline Zone* (1) (4989830), **8.30** *Deepdown Farm* (3) (4607352), **9.00** *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* (1) (4607352), **9.00** *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* (1) (4607352), **9.30** *Russell Grant's Postcards* (3) (737672), **9.30** *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (3) (640672), **10.30** *Survivor: Borneo* (1) (N0054548), **11.00** *Larza* (3) (445458), **12.00** *News at Noon* (1) (438888), **12.30** *Family Affairs* (1) (6383832), **1.00** *The Bold and the Beautiful* (1) (6383832), **1.30** *The Roseanne Show* (3) (6383832)

3.30 **ELIM **Cherrell**** (Charles Marquis Warren 1969 US) Elvis Presley takes on a virtually airtight dramatic role as a doctored kid to give himself a change of image. He plays a reformed gunman framed for the theft of a priceless gun in this quest-spaghetti western. (8772368)

5.20 Sunset Beach. Cole, AJ and Antonio are in the chair as the trippy US soap makes an interesting bid for the *Neighbours*/Home and Away market. (S) (T) (780/807)

6.30 Family Affairs. Claire receives a macabre gift and Olive makes a startling confession in the post-boozing

7,000 9 News Update Including First on Five (S) (T)
(5139140).

7.30 Malaysian Jungle. Focusing on the giant airflower fig tree. Knew you'd be interested (S) (T) (3005633).

8.30 Family Confidential. An 84-year-old woman marries a 37-year-old bloke, and other exploits (SI/554495).

9.00 **[R]** **Everybody's Baby: The Rescue of Jessica McClure** (Mel Darnick 1989 US). Beau Riddaas stars in this heartflin'-chastin' TV movie about

the 1987 rescue of Jessica McClure, the little girl who is 2011 down an abandoned well shaft in Odessa, Texas (98609459).

10.00 Bring Me the Head of a Light Entertainment.
The comedy panel game welcomes guests Ed Byrne and Lynn Ferguson (S) (6139091).

12.00 Live and Dangerous (#923251) **4.40 Prisoner: Call**
Block H (#221454) **5.20 Russell Grent's Postcards**
(#3869/9226) **5.30 100 Per Cent** (#920880). To Barn.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERRARD GILBERT

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